

Waldheim 'may have done deal with Allied intelligence'

By Robert Fisk

Evidence of the suppression of British wartime documents and Foreign Office papers likely to relate to Dr Kurt Waldheim's role as a German army intelligence officer in the Second World War has raised suspicions that Dr Waldheim — far from working for the Russians as some politicians have alleged — may have collaborated with American and British intelligence after the war in return for the 'purging' of his Wehrmacht record.

An examination by *The Times* of hundreds of wartime files at the Public Record Office at Kew has found that numerous War Office documents on the Allied interrogation of German officers about the murder of British prisoners of war have been retained at the Ministry of Defence.

In one file on military activities in Yugoslavia between May 1944 and the end of the war, during which Dr

Waldheim was in Dubrovnik, an entire section on "Allegations of murder of British prisoners of war" — clearly listed in the official index — is missing. An associated file on the murders has been closed to the public until the year 2021.

Officials at the PRO do not know when the closures were made although in every case the Government's decision to prevent public access was taken before 1982, when Dr Waldheim ended his term as UN Secretary General. Only the indexes give an indication of the contents of those files which have been withheld, and they do not mention Dr Waldheim. In some cases, even the contents list is missing.

In two 1951 Foreign Office files (FO 371/93644-5) for example, can be found an Austrian Government list of Vienna Foreign Ministry appointments, including Dr Waldheim's promotion from the Paris embassy to the post of personnel director. The papers include a somewhat unflattering profile by a British diplomat



Dr Waldheim in Yugoslavia in 1944 and the Austrian President now of the man whose job Dr Waldheim was taking. But the next file, which logically would include personal details of other new appointments, including Dr Waldheim's, is mysteriously marked "Closed for 100 years".

The index to this file (FO 371/93646) has been left completely blank. Nor is the Foreign Office prepared to offer any explanation as to why this apparently innocuous set of documents on the minutiae of post-war Austrian admin-

istration should be kept secret for a generation. Attempts by *The Times* to seek access to this and other specific closed files, and to obtain reasons for their retention, were met with a refusal under the terms of the Public Record Act which permits Government departments to retain their papers.

Some of the suppressed files on the murder of British prisoners cannot possibly involve the former Oberleutnant Waldheim. A number of closed reports refer to the killing of British prisoners in France and Belgium after the Normandy invasion, when Dr Waldheim was in the Balkans, while other political papers which have been withheld — on Austria's political relations with Switzerland in 1956, for instance — are unlikely to have involved the man who was by then permanent Austrian observer at the UN.

But intelligence files open to inspection among the War Office papers show considerable interest in General Alexan-

der Lohr's German Army Group "E", in which Dr Waldheim served in Greece and Yugoslavia. Lohr's name is frequently mentioned in intelligence briefings; Lohr's own superior, General Maximilian Freiherr von Weichs, submitted to a long Allied interrogation after capture — which is included in the PRO file — and even Dr Waldheim's immediate superior, Colonel Herbert Warnstorff, is mentioned on a list of intelligence officers.

Yet the British files of the United Nations War Crimes Commission, which include thousands of names of suspected war criminals and contain four complete bound volumes of German, Austrian and Japanese servicemen suspected of committing atrocities, do not include the UN war crimes list published in 1948 — the one volume which included Dr Waldheim's name.

Files for which *The Times* sought access included WO 219/1891, part of the index for which read: "Interrogation

of Prisoners of War. Report on shooting of British prisoners..." The file began in February, 1944. It was in the spring of that year that a number of British commandos and at least one Special Operations Executive agent were murdered in Greece after interrogation by Dr Waldheim's intelligence IC/AO department of Army Group "E". *The Times*' request was refused.

There is one brief reference in an SOE situation report dated October 30, 1944, to Captain Allan Warren, an SOE agent captured by the Germans in March that year trying to ferry escaped Allied prisoners to freedom in Italy. Filed under the classification WO 201/2545, it records a Major Johnson as reporting that an escaped Russian prisoner believed Warren and his colleagues were in a Salonika prisoner-of-war camp called Paulomila. The information was wrong; subsequent inquiries and German documents have shown that Warren was shot.

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Labour leader raises the stakes with public rebuttal of Prescott

Kinnock risks his future on Hattersley

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock last night staked his authority as Labour leader on the re-election of Mr Roy Hattersley as his deputy.

As Mr John Prescott entered the contest for Mr Hattersley's job, he was rebuffed in such strong terms by Mr Kinnock that Labour MPs doubted how the two men could possibly work together in a leadership team.

After Mr Prescott had told a Westminster press conference

that he wanted to win on a Kinnock-Prescott ticket, he was sharply slapped down by the Labour leader.

At a photograph session at which Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley signed each other's

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nomination papers, Mr Kinnock declared: "I will be voting for Roy Hattersley as deputy leader and myself as leader. As far as I am concerned there are no other tickets."

But Mr Prescott's supporters confident he is capable of a good showing in the election — and some saying that he can win — many Labour MPs believe that Mr Kinnock has embarked on a high-risk strategy which would gravely damage him if the shadow energy secretary won.

Because the stakes are that high, the view among senior figures in the Shadow Cabinet last night was that Mr Hattersley would probably win. But they accept that the result could be close and that the opposition felt by some towards Mr Prescott could well change during a six-month contest. The fact that the vote is recorded will clearly discourage many left-wingers from voting for Mr Hattersley.

There were signs last night that the contest which the leadership did not want would badly strain loyalties on the Kinnockite left, having already riven the far left.

Reacting yesterday to the departure of several prominent MPs from the far left Campaign Group, one of the group's leading figures said those who had resigned, who included the front-benchers Ms Jo Richardson, Mrs Margaret Beckett and Ms Clare Short, would be seen by history as no different than those who had failed to support Mr Tony Benn's left-wing

challenge for the deputy leadership in 1981.

In another twist Mr Alan Meale, who was the Campaign Group secretary for more than four years, announced that he was to be one of Mr Prescott's campaign managers, though he expected to stay in the Campaign Group. Mrs Beckett also announced she was to support Mr Prescott.

On the soft left some MPs who voted in the Tribune Group against a challenge taking place said that they would be voting for Mr Prescott in the contest, even though that could now be seen as a vote against Mr Kinnock.

The possible tensions ahead were illustrated by the fact that Mr Prescott's candidature was announced by Mr Sam McCuskie, general secretary of his union, the National Union of Seamen, the Labour Party Treasurer, and long-time ally of Mr Kinnock.

He, Mr Prescott and their supporters declared their support for Mr Kinnock, a position difficult to square with Mr Kinnock's unequivocal support for Mr Hattersley. Mr Prescott announced that his election would be based on an attempt to change the role of the deputy leader to a campaigning one — a shift to which Mr Kinnock is opposed — and to provide "an alternative political choice."

He denied that there was "bad blood" between him and Mr Kinnock. He said he had encouragement from trade unions and local parties to stand.

Members of his campaign team were predicting a victory on the first ballot for Mr Prescott. They claimed he could win 18 per cent of the 40 per cent allocated to the unions in the electoral college; 15 per cent of the 30 per cent given to the MPs, and 20 per cent of the constituency party vote.

Mr Kinnock said: "I shall win. Roy Hattersley will win."

Continued on page 24, col 4

Lawson firm on pound

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said yesterday that industry should accept the discipline of the stronger pound.

He said that the six-year decline of sterling against the mark had been halted and raised the possibility of a further rise in the pound as a consequence of the success of Britain's economic policies.

Mr Lawson, who last year

gave assurances to industry that the Government would seek to hold the pound stable, now appears to have removed that guarantee.

Mr Lawson, repeatedly told the all-party Treasury and Civil Service Committee, that there had been no change in policy when the decision was taken to uncup the pound earlier this month.

that he had been sacked by the Queensland Cricket Association in Australia.

Botham said: "One of the elephants looked like she was throwing her leg to the side instead of walking normally. They have all been pulled out now as a precaution, because I have got quite fond of them and the last thing any of us wants is for anything untoward to happen to three beautiful creatures."

Mr David Taylor, 53, an international wildlife expert, made the decision to return the elephants to their base. He warned that lame elephants could take up to a year to return to full health, and said that if the trio was split up they might react angrily to being forced to walk without their injured companion.



Smiles of confidence from Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley as they signed each other's nomination papers yesterday

Holiday delays 'inevitable'

Sea strike means crowded skies

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British holidaymakers could face long delays as they leave for their Easter breaks, with almost every available airline seat already booked and ferries hit by the seamen's strike.

A predicted increase in holiday air traffic means air traffic controllers will struggle to find a "slot" in the crowded airways.

A combination of post-Budget euphoria and the ferry strike has led to an unprecedented late demand for air travel and throughout Britain airlines and travel agents have been turning potential cus-

tomers away because all seats have been taken.

The Civil Aviation Authority spoke of "inevitable" delays and British Airways said it had full loads on virtually all flights throughout Europe. The domestic Shuttle services were expected to break all records.

The Dover Harbour Board warned holidaymakers heading for the Continent by ferry to expect long delays.

Thomson Holidays said it would be carrying 75,000 passengers on 450 flights over Easter including 6,000 pensioners.

European cities such as Paris, Amsterdam and Vienna, are particularly popular, although there has also been a big increase in travel to Gambia and north Africa.

The outlook is gloomiest for travellers by sea to Europe. The combined effects of strikes by the National Union of Seamen at P&O European Ferries and by ferry crews in France are likely to lead to long tailbacks over the holiday period.

About 400 lorries were last night waiting for ferries to Calais and Ostend and port officials advised travellers

with vehicles to ensure they had a firm booking before heading for the docks.

The situation could deteriorate if Dover crews at Sealink British Ferries carry out their threat of a series of strikes. The only vehicle and passenger link running yesterday between Dover and Calais were the Sealink ferries St Christopher and St Anselm.

The demand will put the air traffic control services under great pressure. But the Civil Aviation Authority said last night that delays should be, on average, not more than about 15 minutes.

Inquiry started on education leaks

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Scottish Office yesterday opened an official inquiry into the second leak within a month of confidential letters revealing details about the direction of Government education policy.

The latest disclosures, contained in two letters from the Prime Minister's office to that of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland, confirm that ministers are intent on giving the country's schools the same right to opt out of local authority control as that proposed for England and Wales.

Earlier this month, a leaked letter indicated a rift between the Prime Minister and Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, over the details of the testing programme to be introduced as part of the Education Reform Bill.

The key letter dated March 14, from Mr Nigel Wicks, Mr

5,000 jobs to be lost at BAe

By Colin Campbell

British Aerospace, hit by currency movements and the financial drain of its 20 per cent investment in European Airbus consortium, is to shed 5,000 jobs in the next 18 months in a move to save £65 million.

Professor Roland Smith, the chairman, said the job cuts would be through voluntary redundancy and early retirement, but hinted that more trimming was likely.

He reported yesterday that BAe had swung from pretax profits of £182 million into pretax losses of £159 million in the year ended December after lower trading margins and sterling receipts from aircraft deliveries.

The greatest financial knock was a £320 million exceptional item to cover £180 million of losses on the Airbus consortium.

BAe loss, page 25

Elephant injury blow to Botham's alpine trek

By Our Foreign Staff

Ian Botham's plans to walk across the Alps with three elephants were thrown into doubt yesterday when the project's organizers pulled the animals out of the first day's march on health grounds.

One of the animals, a female called Batman, became lame two hours after Botham left Perpignan, in southern France, — just six miles into the planned 500-mile journey in the footsteps of Hannibal to raise money for leukaemia research.

The news was a bitter blow for planners of the march, who have worked for two years to set up the expedition, and will also have disappointed Botham. He was still recovering from the announcement

that he had been sacked by the Queensland Cricket Association in Australia.

Botham said: "One of the elephants looked like she was throwing her leg to the side instead of walking normally. They have all been pulled out now as a precaution, because I have got quite fond of them and the last thing any of us wants is for anything untoward to happen to three beautiful creatures."

Mr David Taylor, 53, an international wildlife expert, made the decision to return the elephants to their base. He warned that lame elephants could take up to a year to return to full health, and said that if the trio was split up they might react angrily to being forced to walk without their injured companion.

But after an 11th-hour meeting with Botham, Mr Taylor announced that the animals will undergo a strenuous fitness test this morning. He said the decision on whether to stop the elephants walking on the march would be postponed until the test.

"Batman, who went lame this morning, has been treated for her condition and we will have another look tomorrow when I shall give them all a vigorous fitness test," he said. "If I have any doubts at all I will pull her out."

Botham said as he continued walking: "The last thing we wanted was for any injury to come to any of the elephants or the walkers. So David Taylor pulled them all straight out. What is best for the elephants is best

for the walk. And what is best for the elephants is no injuries."

Botham, who earlier this week launched a tirade of abuse at British animal rights protesters, again turned on armchair critics voicing concern about the elephants' safety. "If the animal rights people still think they can jump on the bandwagon they should go and bore someone else's car off," he said.

Zoo Check, the animal welfare charity set up by actors Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna, was "delighted" at the decision to withdraw the elephants. The charity's director, Mr William Travers, the stars' son, praised Botham for having the courage to swallow his pride and withdraw the animals.

Leading article, page 13

Military camps to be used as jails

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

A continuing explosion in the prison population, which could soon top 52,000, is forcing the Government to reopen two Army camps.

The overflow is dangerously impeding police duties by clogging police station cells as well as the overloaded prison system.

Rollestone, Wiltshire, and Camberley, Surrey, will be open throughout the summer and into late autumn as a "temporary measure" to take up to 700 prisoners.

They will be manned by military police and other

personnel under the direction of prison management.

The Home Office is to speed plans to involve the private sector more closely with the prison system.

A Green Paper will be published examining the options for private firms to build, maintain and manage secure accommodation for many of the 10,000 or so remand prisoners now in jails or police station cells.

The Government is looking into plans for private firms to be involved too in court duties and escorting prisoners to and from their court appearances.

Other crisis measures announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, include:

● Acceleration of the prison building programme to provide an extra 1,000 places by 1990, with 3,000 additional permanent places being created by the existing programme by this time next year.

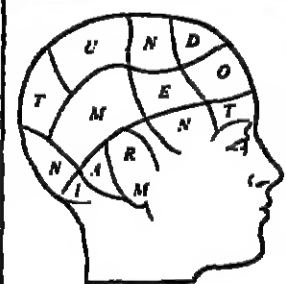
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● With no winner yesterday Portfolio Accumulator rises again today to £136,000 — or there is the daily prize of £4,000 to be won.

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND



● Today *The Times* announces the names of the 120 finalists who will compete for the £5,000 first prize in the last stages of the Tournament of the Mind: page 11

Mortgage cut

The Halifax, Britain's largest building society, is to cut its mortgage rate by ½ per cent to 9.8 per cent, the lowest level since 1978. Page 24

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Leading article, page 13

NEWS ROUNDUP

Building workers sought overseas

Skilled building workers are in such short supply that a recruitment team has flown to Cairo, Hong Kong and Europe to get staff for the Channel tunnel and developers in London's docklands are sending teams to Ireland to recruit bricklayers with offers of up to £600 per week.

The effort to recruit bricklayers has led to a row with Labour's employment spokesman, Mr Barry Sheerman, describing it as a "national scandal".

Building firm's recruiters are telling skilled Irish workers that they can earn as much as £600 a week as bricklayers, £370 as joiners, £500 as roofers and £300 a week as plumbers.

One of the projects on which they will be employed is the 800-ft skyscraper in Canary Wharf. Mr Sheerman said one of the objectives of the docklands development was originally to provide opportunities for local people.

The Building Employers' Confederation said it was virtually unknown for bricklayers to earn that sort of money.

Contempt Koo Stark charges wins case

Two photographers appeared before a crown court judge yesterday charged with contempt of court.

Simon Runtz, aged 25, of *The Sun*, and Neil Phillips, aged 23, were ordered to appear before Judge Paiba after two defendants, Mr Charlie Springall and Mr Tony Bowles, claimed they were assaulted by a press photographer outside court.

Mr Springall, aged 20, and Mr Bowles, aged 25, allege they were attacked as they walked away from Southwark Crown Court, south London, on Monday.

The hearing was adjourned until Wednesday.

Win for newspaper

A judge's decision to hear in open court a police application for an order allowing officers to seize from *The Independent* newspaper a document on international co-operation against terrorism was upheld by the High Court yesterday. There was "no trace of unreasonableness" in the way the judge at the Central Criminal Court approached the matter, Lord Justice Bingham said. The High Court dismissed a police challenge to Mr Justice Owen's decision last week not to hear the application in secret.

Minister's Opera office raid post

Welsh language campaigners said yesterday they had broken in to the constituency office in Worcester of the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr Peter Walker. They said they had left a message demanding a new structure and more resources for Welsh language education.

A spokeswoman for the Welsh Language Society said members entered the office but caused "as little damage as possible". The society is seeking a Welsh language development body to promote wider use of the language in schools.

Boxer's debt worries

The former Welsh boxing champion, Patrick McKenzie, hanged himself after he was forced to sell his home because of business debts, an inquest was told yesterday. McKenzie, aged 32, of Rhiwbina, Cardiff, who won the Welsh light heavyweight title in 1981, became a self-employed plumber after he was forced to stop boxing in 1983 because of eye trouble. The inquest in Cardiff was told that McKenzie's business had suffered financial difficulties partly because of customers not paying their bills. A verdict that he killed himself was recorded.

Key role for unions in battle for Hattersley job

By Roland Rudd

Mr John Prescott, Labour's shadow energy spokesman, first announced his decision to stand for the deputy-leadership of the Labour Party not in the House of Commons, but in the executive chamber at Maritime House, headquarters of the National Union of Seamen.

The timing and the venue was important, not just because the union sponsors Mr Prescott, but because the battle over Mr Neil Kinnock's deputy is likely to centre on the unions, which account for 40 per cent of the electoral college.

The NUS executive yesterday unanimously voted to endorse Mr Prescott as deputy leader of the Labour Party and praised his "determination to unite all wings of the Labour movement".

In a trade union college of 5,792,000 the NUS has only 25,000 votes. However, the support of its general secretary, Mr Sam McCluskie, who is treasurer of the Labour Party, is worth considerably more to Mr Prescott.

Mr McCluskie has been in touch with key union leaders. "I got a very good feedback", he said. "It's going to be bloody close although I am convinced John can win."

An early call will have been to Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who wields the biggest conference block vote of 1.25 million; 8.6 per cent of the total electoral college.

Mr Todd has attacked the proposed leadership contest as an "irrelevant diversion".

That, however, was before Mr Prescott entered the fray, presenting the new hard-left executive with a dilemma. Although few members doubt that the union will back Mr Kinnock as leader, the deputy leadership is quite a different matter.

Mr Hattersley has never been a favourite of the left and transport union officials yesterday predicted that Mr Prescott could expect strong support.

Mr Prescott's "crusade to change the function of the deputy leader into a campaigning role" is attractive to unions. But perhaps more significantly his strong link to the unions could be the deciding factor.

Union leaders have criticized the present Labour leadership for what

Mr McCluskie called "the drift between the unions and the party".

Mr Todd echoed the same theme when he said: "Our common objective is a mass party, not a Labour Party cut off from the unions, but a Labour Party better integrated with trade union life in the community".

If the transport union swings behind Mr Prescott the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, with a block vote of 297,000 representing 2.05 per cent of the total college, is likely to follow suit.

The National Union of Public Employees admits that the choice of deputy leader is a difficult one to make. However, the executive could be persuaded to cast its 650,000 block vote for Mr Prescott.

Smaller left-led unions, such as

the National Union of Mineworkers and the train drivers in the Associated Society of Locomotive, Engineers and Firemen, will line up against Mr Hattersley. If they do not support Mr Eric Heffer, in the event of a second ballot they will switch to Mr Prescott.

Mr Hattersley was last challenged in 1983 when Mr Michael Meacher, Labour employment spokesman, who was then regarded as hard-left, took 27.8 per cent of the college.

Mr Prescott should do better among Labour MPs, although perhaps not so well in the constituencies. Both groups account for 30 per cent each of the college. If Mr Prescott can beat Mr Hattersley among the unions he could become Labour's new deputy leader.

Loss of Ford jobs at Dundee

Thatcher condemns 'out-dated unions'

By Kerry Gill

The Prime Minister yesterday attacked both the Labour Party and the trade union movement for ensuring that 1,000 jobs, planned for Dundee by the Ford Motor Company, were stillborn.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, on a visit to Scotland, blamed out-dated trade unionism for the loss of the jobs as she announced that a health care company, Shield Diagnostics, was to create 300 jobs in Dundee.

"Speaking to Conservative Party workers at a hotel in the city, she said: "Let me make it very, very clear, we worked extremely hard to get Ford to Dundee. We worked hard because there were many other countries who wanted the investment. Ford would bring, Germany wanted it, Spain wanted it."

"We, the Government, did everything possible. We were successful in saying Dundee was the place. We could not have foreseen that a party that often questions me about more jobs, in the House of Commons, would be the very party that ensured these jobs were stillborn."

She paid tribute to Mr Gavin Laird, the general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union who she said also worked hard to persuade Ford to build its £40

million electronics plant in Dundee.

But, she added: "What I do not understand is that, in this modern age some of the trade unions are more concerned with demarcation disputes, restrictive practices and sectional interests than in jobs for their fellow citizens."

Ford pulled out of the project after unions failed to agree on a single-union deal, arranged by Mr Laird. Ironically, Shield Diagnostics will have no union presence in its factory.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, said: "If the trade union movement are able to speak with a single voice then there is still a possibility of Ford reconsidering its decision."

Earlier in the day, while visiting Greenock, Mrs Thatcher announced that the Government had designated Inverclyde an Enterprise Zone, the fourth in Scotland, in which 3,200 jobs are expected to be created.

Shield Diagnostics will set up its £4 million health care venture on Dundee's Technology Park, close to where the Ford factory was to have been located. The company, formed five years ago by scientists from Dundee University Medical School, will research, develop and manufacture kits for diagnos-

ing rheumatoid arthritis and other illnesses, and for predicting the risk of heart attacks.

● The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union (EETPU), which is under threat of suspension from the TUC, yesterday announced that it had won a "significant victory" for its members through its controversial strike-free clause.

It said the union had won a binding pendulum arbitration award at Sanyo.

Binding arbitration is known as a strike-free clause because it stipulates that deadlocked disputes must go to a final arbitrator, which must support either the claim or the offer.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary, is expected to use yesterday's announcement as further proof that far from being "sweetheart" deals, no-strike clauses benefit the workforce. He has criticized the TUC's attempt to suspend his union over its involvement in News International's move to Wapping as a means of "diminishing the union's influence during the consideration of single-union so-called no-strike agreements".

The arbitrator's award gives the 620-strong workforce in Lowestoft, Suffolk, rises of at least £8.30 a week.



Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday during a trip to Scotland.

Leyland Bus sold a year after £680m write-off

By Daniel Ward and Richard Owen

Leyland Bus has been taken over by Volvo, the Swedish bus maker, one year after being privatized with Leyland Trucks in a management buyout.

That deal cost the taxpayer £680 million in debt write-offs. The price the Swedish company paid for the British manufacturer of buses and British Rail coach trains was not disclosed but is estimated to be about £25 million.

Mr Lars Erik Nilsson, president of the Volvo Bus Corporation, yesterday promised more investment at the company's plants in Leyland, Lancashire, and Workington, Cumbria, which employ 1850. Volvo will retain the Leyland bus name.

Mr Ian McKinnin, former chairman and chief executive of Leyland Bus, said: "Our main objective when we first launched the buyout in 1986 was to secure the best possible future for the business and its employees."

"We believe that we were successful in achieving this when we bought Leyland Bus against the alternatives available at that time."

"Whilst the short and medium term future of Leyland Bus is secure it has become increasingly clear that the longer term future could only be secured by some form of collaboration with a major manufacturer."

Volvo and Leyland plant to manufacture around 5,500 buses in 1988. The sale was announced as EEC

officials in Brussels said they would be investigating the British Aerospace-Rover Group agreement.

They said that the inquiry into the Rover deal could take months rather than weeks, and that Mr Peter Sutherland, the Commissioner for Competition Policy, was "in no mood to give the British government an easy ride".

There is concern that the proposed huge write-off of debts would give Rover an unfair competitive edge in Europe through government subsidy.

"The £150 million sale price seems low and the debt write-off (£1.1 billion) and capital injection (£800 million) seem high", one official said in an initial reaction.

The commission is already investigating the sale of Alfa Romeo to Fiat for "an artificially low price".

One outcome being forecast is that Brussels will allow state aid to Rover at a level lower than the proposed £800 million, and that Rover will have to meet strict conditions to qualify for the aid.

Mr Sutherland, Ireland's representative on the 17-man commission, is pushing for stronger EEC control over proposed mergers as the single European market approaches in 1992. The aim is to ensure that merged European conglomerates do not distort competition by achieving the kind of "dominant" market position forbidden by the Treaty of Rome, the EEC's basic law.

Whooping cough vaccine

Judgement could end grant

By Howard Foster

The Loveday family, which on Tuesday lost its legal fight to prove the link between whooping cough vaccine and the brain damage suffered by Susan Loveday, now aged 17, may not qualify for a £10,000 government payment as a result of the High Court judgement.

There are now worries that the ruling that the vaccine could not be held responsible for brain damage in some children may prevent the payments to some 50 families still locked in the claims procedure with the vaccine damages tribunal, although the Department of Health and Social Security indicated yesterday that there were no immediate plans to halt payment.

Legal costs in the action brought by the Lovedays are estimated at about £1 million and the family is now considering an appeal. It is the most costly legal aid case in history.

The family solicitor, Mr

Jack Rabinowitz, said yesterday that it would be difficult to see how the DHSS could make a payment to the Lovedays in the light of the judgement of Lord Justice Stuart-Smith.

"If it has been held that the vaccine does not cause brain damage, then I do not see how they can pay out," Mr Rabinowitz said.

Last night the Association of Parents of Vaccine-Damaged Children, which has 200 members waiting to see how the judgement will affect them, said that much rested on the interpretation put upon the case by the department.

"I have a fear that this might be used against us," Mrs Rosemary Fox, secretary of the association, said.

A spokesman for the department said that the judgement would be studied closely and that any application to the vaccine damage tribunal by

the Lovedays would be given full consideration.

"It is important to remember that the £10,000 or £20,000 payment is not compensation, it is financial support for the sufferers of vaccine damage", the spokesman said.

The High Court judgement, which was that the vaccine, pertussis, may trigger a reaction which results in brain damage in some vulnerable children but could not be said to be responsible, was greeted with disappointment by Mrs Maura Loveday.

She said that had the action against the doctor who administered the vaccine succeeded, any money the family received would have gone to pay for a better life for Susan.

Mrs Loveday plans to start a charity to provide accommodation in London for handicapped children whose parents are unable to look after them.

Plea for building of more runways

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The Government was told last night that new runways must soon be built in south-east England to meet the growing demand for air travel.

In a report on runway utilization, a Civil Aviation Authority committee said: "If the UK civil aviation industry and the London airport system are to maintain their pre-eminent position in Europe, the Government will inevitably need to take a lead in securing and facilitating the use of additional airport capacity in the South-east. There is no alternative."

"The committee recommends that the Government addresses this issue as a matter of urgency."

A committee was set up in July 1986 under the chairmanship of Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the authority chairman, to recommend ways to obtain greater use from the existing runways,

especially at Heathrow and Gatwick. But it has been able only to produce marginal improvements.

Among the proposals are improved exit taxiways to enable aircraft to leave the main runway more quickly, separation of aircraft of 2.5 miles as opposed to the present three miles minimum, more routes for propeller-driven aircraft and a greater mix of traffic before 8am.

But it says: "The measures will be insufficient to enable London's two principal airports alone to respond fully to the continuing pressure of demand."

Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Transport, in an immediate reply to the report ignored the demand for government action but promised to discuss forecasts of air traffic growth with the CAA and proposals which could affect local noise.

Drivers cannot be sure of the tiger in their tank

By David Young

Energy Correspondent

The House of Commons was told yesterday that every motorist has always suspected is true. You cannot really be sure of Shell, and the tiger you have just put in your tank is quite likely to be a cross-bred moggie.

What's more, there is a more than a one-in-six chance that some BP petrol has never been near a BP refinery.

The Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee which is looking into petrol pricing policies, was told that fuel is a product which is exchanged among the big refiners to help their delivery schedules.

Even the managing director of Shell UK, Mr Jaap Klootwijk, was forced to

admit that the advantages it claimed for its petrol was due to an additive which was put in at the refineries where the petrol was produced by Shell chemists. Those refineries were not necessarily operated by Shell.

Mr Klootwijk, said yesterday that all petrol was produced to meet the British standard for four star petrol "but not all petrol is the same".

However, Mr David Kendall, chief executive and managing director of BP Oil, said that his company was not at this stage planning to add any additives to its petrol. "The product we sell is a high quality product manufactured to the required British standards. We claim no more than that," he said.

Mr Kendall added that between 60

and 70 per cent of BP petrol sold on its forecourts could have come from refineries operated by Shell, Esso, Texaco or Mobil.

Mr John Perry, BP's retail manager, said that it was estimated that by exchanging products between the refineries a saving of £50 million a year was passed on to the consumer.

Dr John Gilbert, MP for Dudley East, said: "You mean that you can't be sure of Shell, that there actually is a tiger in your tank or even that you have put BP up the spout?"

His colleague on the committee, Mr Stan Crowther, MP for Rotherham, put it less delicately. "It's like going into a Telly's pub and been given a pint of Stoney."

The oil company directors were appearing at the command of the committee, which at an earlier sitting had insisted that evidence from mere managers would not do.

In written evidence yesterday both Shell and BP Oil denied that they interfered with independent petrol wholesalers.

Shell said: "There were a number of major inaccuracies and, even more seriously, unsubstantiated allegations which are potentially most damaging to Shell."

"Shell does not conduct its business in the way it has been represented to the committee and is always aware of the necessity to observe the statutory requirements of competition legislation."

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Divorcee's £16,000 award is swallowed by costs of legal aid

A divorcee who successfully sued for £16,000 in maintenance arrears was left with nothing because her award was swallowed up by costs.

Mrs Florence Clark spent three years fighting for the money and thought she had won when her former husband's boat was seized and his insurance policies were cashed.

However because Mrs Clark recovered the money by means of sequestration, the court had no option under legal aid rules but to order the full amount to go towards her £25,000 legal costs.

Mrs Justice Booth, in the High Court Family Division, said it was a deplorable state of affairs.

"At the end of the day it is a sad fact that a great deal of money has been wasted and the wife will have gained nothing at the conclusion of a long and tortuous legal process", she said.

She ruled that the legal aid fund, which had provided the £25,000 costs of Mrs Clark's case, must be reimbursed.

The Law Society, which administers the fund, had opposed Mrs Clark's application for a court ruling that the costs should not be repaid.

The judge said that, by July

1985, when the proceedings began, Mrs Clark, of Chipperfield, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, was owed £5,043 by her former husband, Keith, who has remarried.

At a High Court hearing last October, the arrears were calculated to have risen to more than £16,000.

Sequestrators were appointed. They seized a £4,750 boat belonging to Mr Clark and raised another £12,500 by cashing insurance policies.

The judge said that had Mrs Clark's lawyers opted to recover the maintenance arrears by means other than sequestration, she might well have not had to repay the costs.



Mrs Justice Booth, who said money had been wasted.

But because of the course taken by the lawyers, the court had no option under the legal aid rules but to order reimbursement.

She said the case emphasized the care which must be taken by lawyers to ensure that funds available to the parties were not swallowed up by the costs of the actions they pursued.

She said that, as a matter of general practice, parties involved in such actions should be kept regularly informed of the current state of their legal costs.

In any event, the money raised from Mr Clark's assets would not be enough to cover costs. The legal aid fund, and therefore the taxpayer, would still have to foot a considerable part of the bill.

"Thus, the legal aid fund, in addition to the parties, has suffered financially by reason of these proceedings. It is a deplorable state of affairs", the judge said.

After the hearing, Mrs Clark said: "I am very angry at what has happened. Obviously I have got to think about this. My advice to anyone in my sort of predicament would be: 'Do not go to law'."

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Estate agents' advertising

Only one board permitted

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Estate agents who display For Sale or To Let boards outside homes commit an offence under planning laws if another agent erects more boards, even if the first agents are unaware of it, the High Court ruled yesterday.

Lord Justice Bingham, sitting with Mr Justice Hutchinson, said the vexed question of the proliferation of estate agents' boards had caused problems and a number of cases were awaiting the decision.

Mr A H Porter, a partner in the estate agents Whitman Porter, of The Quadrant, Richmond, Surrey, had appealed against his conviction by Richmond magistrates of two planning offences and fines totalling £400, with £40 costs.

Lord Justice Bingham said that in November, 1986, Whitman Porter displayed a board at Number 18, The Vineyard, Richmond, and in January, 1987, at 25-28 The Hermitage, Richmond, before any other boards were erected. A second board was then displayed at The Vineyard property, which Whitman Porter may have been aware of. They claimed they did not know a second board had been placed outside The Hermitage premises and contended that the planning regulations allowed the display of one board per advertiser, rather than one board per premises, to enable "deemed" planning consent to apply.

Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Hutchinson dismissed the appeal, saying that

"deemed" planning consent could only be for one advertisement in total per sale or letting. Whitman Porter were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords, although it is still open to them to apply to the Law Lords for leave to appeal.

The Government is to introduce new rules for the display of boards in October, under which it is made clear that there can be only one board per property. In addition, the rules, announced by Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for Housing and Planning, will restrict the size of boards. At present the maximum size is two square metres. Under amendments to the Control of Advertisements Regulations, the size will be restricted to 0.5 square metres.

Gunmen in cash raid at hospital

Armed robbers dressed as doctors snatched £25,000 at Guy's Hospital in central London yesterday.

Two raiders pulled guns from under their white coats and forced Securicor guards to hand over cash bags bound for a branch of the National Westminster Bank in the hospital before escaping into the grounds.

Police said the men were aged about 25 to 30. "Both were wearing white hospital coats like doctors. It was a pretty good disguise."

No shots were fired and no one was hurt in the hold up at about 9.45 am.

A newsagent's assistant at W H Smith next to the bank said: "It was all over so quickly that I didn't even realise it was a robbery. They were in and out within a matter of seconds."

Securicor is offering a £5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the robbers.

The robbers pounced as two security guards were carrying a cash container to the bank from an armoured van.

Centre saved
A community centre built as a "living memorial" to the victims of the 1966 Aberfan disaster has been saved. Merthyr Council yesterday said it would take over the loss-making centre on June 1.

Teacher compares pupils to addicts

By Ruth Gledhill

A public school teacher has likened his pupils to heroin addicts because of their dependence on pulp fiction, television soap operas and video nasties.

Mr Roland Scaife criticized their "intellectual sloth" and their dependence upon "junk culture" in a letter to parents. The form tutor at Thomas's, a London day school that charges about £1,100 a term, asked parents to encourage their children to read demanding material and to practise the art of conversation.

The letter, which is supported by the school's principals, Mr and Mrs David Thomas, describes a reluctance to read quality material, difficulty in maintaining a rational argument and a lack of intellectual curiosity among the 13 to 15-year-olds.

Instead, writes Mr Scaife, they have shown a "dependence on pulp, soap-opera fiction, such as is found on stalls in railway stations", while some pupils read nothing at all in their spare time.

They cannot argue and show instead a reliance on emotional, incoherent generalization, cliché and second-hand slogans. They seek out stultifying forms of entertainment, such as personal stereos and videos, for instant gratification, and live on "an almost exclusive diet of quiz game shows and soap operas".

Mr Scaife continues: "The choice of films seems to consist of an exclusive diet of horror-exploitation pictures."

"Minds that rely upon Freddy's Revenge and the like, become as stagnant and slavish in their addiction as those of heroin consumers." When asked about current events, two pupils could only come up with the story of a child murder.

One girl's mother said she agreed with everything in the letter. She said: "It is extremely difficult to persuade her to work rather than watch television. We will be trying to carry out some of his suggestions."

Universities are entitled to demand higher A level grades from privately educated pupils than from their State school counterparts, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said yesterday (Sara Thompson writes).

It was responding to criticism of Exeter University from a first-year student who said that one department deliberately discriminates against candidates from independent schools. The university denied there was such a policy.

However, the committee said that such a practice was perfectly legitimate if it really meant that candidates from less well-off families and schools were given more chance of a university place.

Old hats need more headroom



By Andrew Morgan

Mr Fred Savile, a hat polisher, renovates the 1890 silk top hat which the Duke of Clarence (once suspected of being Jack The Ripper) never picked up when it was completed.

The firm of London hatters, Herbert Johnson, was yesterday still hoping for a break-through in its ritual search for

authentic black silk top hats at the start of the flat racing season.

The company, based in Old Burlington Street, has been unable to supply new silk toppers for several years after the French firm supplying silk for their manufacture closed 20 years ago.

For the second year running, it placed an advertisement in *Country Life* inquir-

ing after second-hand silk toppers and has received 23 replies. Sadly, few of the toppers, which are mostly pre-war, fit the bill as they are too small for the country's increased head size.

The hats are sent away for dismantling and reshaping to the head of the new owner.

(Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Crash train driver went past signal

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A 100mph collision between two express trains at Colwich Junction in Staffordshire, in which a train driver was killed and 75 people were injured, happened because a northbound train went through the signals at red, the report of the official investigation into the incident says.

The accident occurred because the northbound train's driver had not familiarized himself with changes in the signalling system, the report adds. It

says, however, that the braking system did not operate as efficiently as it should have done when the driver attempted to make an emergency stop. That may have been because of the operation of equipment to prevent the wheels sliding.

Major Peter Oliver, the inspector, recommends the fitting of equipment automatically to eliminate the operation of wheel-slide equipment when an emergency stop is being made.

The report, published yesterday, says the accident, which occurred at 6.28pm on September 19, 1986, indicates the

importance of motive power inspectors travelling in locomotive cabs to check the correct handling of locomotives by drivers, and that their knowledge of the route and of signalling is correct.

It says: "The reduction in the number of motive power inspectors, as part of the general slimming down of the railway staff is a retrograde step".

The collision was between the 5pm train from London Euston to Manchester, driven by Mr Brian Shaw, from Manchester, and the 5.20pm, a train from Liverpool to Euston.

Price peg on phones for further 12 months

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

British Telecom is to freeze its prices for a further 12 months until March 31, 1989, it announced yesterday. That means some prices will have been pegged for two and a half years.

The company is also reducing the cost of hiring lines to people who are disabled or infirm and dependent on their telephones and to those least able to afford them. Connection charges will be easier to meet.

Professor Bryan Carlsberg, of OfTel, the telecommunications watchdog, welcomed the freeze which he said meant a reduction for the consumer in purchasing power terms. OfTel is reviewing British Telecom's price formula, which expires on July 31, 1989.

Charges will remain the same for exchange line rentals and connection charges; for all local and national telephone calls; for international dialled telephone calls and for payphone calls. The reductions for the disabled and infirm, known as the Lifeline scheme, are being put to OfTel.

The company's prices have been criticized recently by the Consumers' Association, the Telecommunications Users' Association and National Utility Services.

Mr Iain Vallance, British Telecom's chairman, said the freeze was the direct result of the company's sound trading

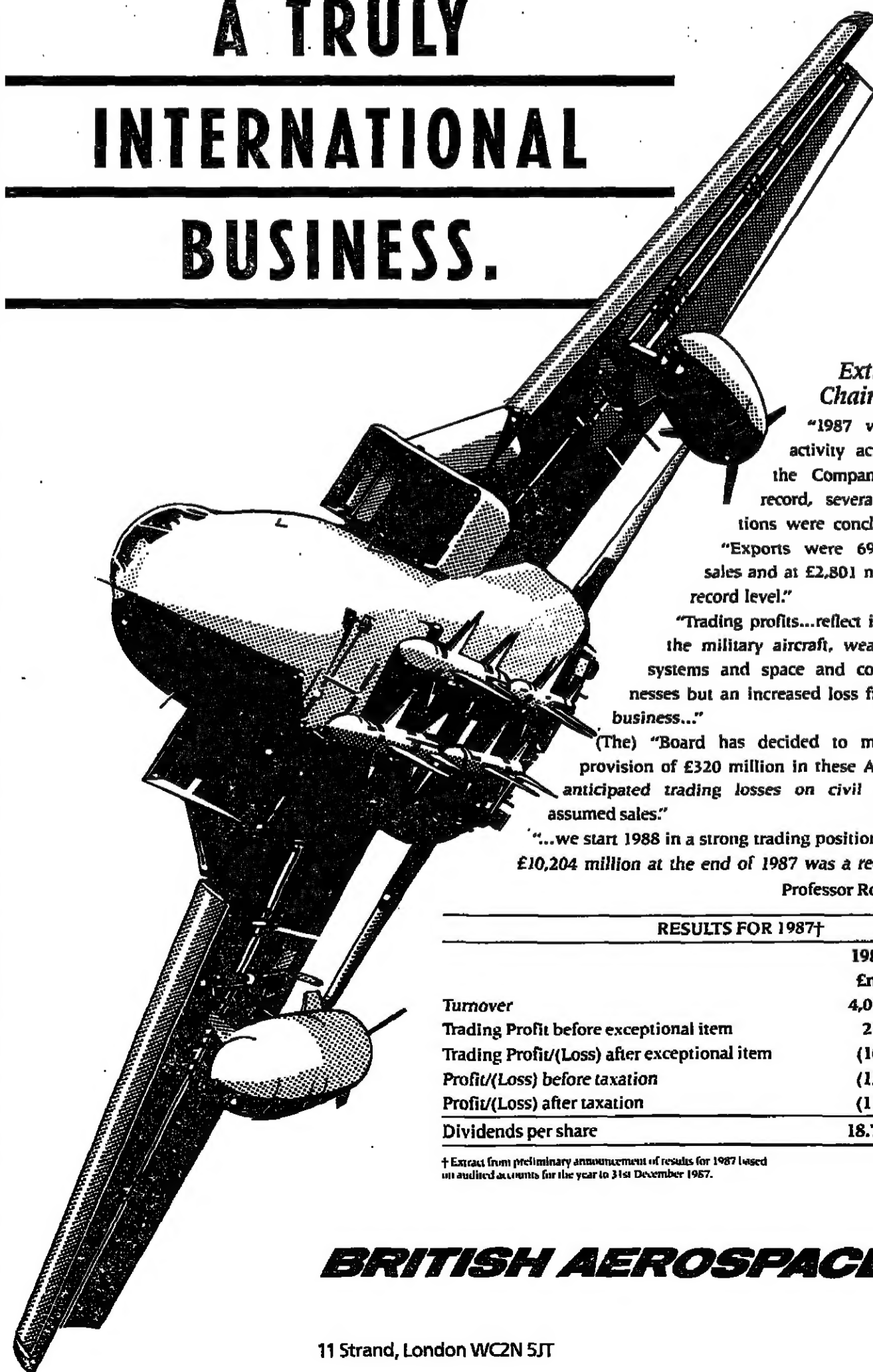
Mr Mark Elwes, director of the Telecommunications Users' Association, representing mainly business users, welcomed the freeze but called for price stability in such areas as private circuits.

● Television licence fees are to rise from tomorrow: the first increase since 1985. The colour licence, now £58, rises to £62.50 and the black and white fee from £18 to £21.

Fans held

Police arrested eight Arsenal supporters yesterday in dawn raids on homes in London and Hertfordshire as part of an operation against football hooliganism.

A TRULY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS.



Extracts from the Chairman's Statement.

"1987 was a year of high activity across all divisions of the Company. Turnover was a record, several important acquisitions were concluded successfully..."

"Exports were 69 per cent of total sales and at £2,801 million were also at a record level."

"Trading profits...reflect increased profits from the military aircraft, weapons and electronic systems and space and communications businesses but an increased loss from the civil aircraft business..."

(The) "Board has decided to make an exceptional provision of £320 million in these Accounts to cover the anticipated trading losses on civil aircraft orders and assumed sales."

"...we start 1988 in a strong trading position...The order book of £10,204 million at the end of 1987 was a record."

Professor Roland Smith Chairman

RESULTS FOR 1987†

	1987	1986
	£m	£m
Turnover	4,075	3,137
Trading Profit before exceptional item	217	217
Trading Profit/(Loss) after exceptional item	(103)	217
Profit/(Loss) before taxation	(159)	182
Profit/(Loss) after taxation	(110)	128
Dividends per share	18.7p	17.4p

† Extracts from preliminary announcement of results for 1987 based on audited accounts for the year to 31st December 1987.

BRITISH AEROSPACE

11 Strand, London WC2N 5JT

The publication of this advertisement has been approved by the Board of Directors of British Aerospace. Such Directors of British Aerospace are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement and confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information. Each of such Directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

March 30 1988

PARLIAMENT

Military police to staff new prisons

A package of measures to increase accommodation to cope with the rapidly rising prison population was outlined to MPs by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary.

In a statement, he said that the package included the use of army camps, which would be staffed by military police. The measures he was announcing, with plans already in hand, would increase the number of permanent places available by 4,000 over the next 12 months, with a further 1,000 places from the end of 1989.

Mr Hurd said that the prison population had continued to grow since the end of 1987. In early September, it rose to 50,600 at the end of last week, about 1,200 more than at the same time last year.

Taking into account measures he had announced in July, to secure a better balance between the rapidly rising prison population and the prison accommodation available, there had been an underlying increase of about 4,200 in the past year.

"Projecting these trends forward, we could be faced with a population of some 52,000 by the summer of this year."

The four main causes for the growth in

population were: a big increase in the number of criminals being brought before the Crown court; a substantial lengthening in sentences imposed by the Crown court for offences involving violence, including robbery, rape, criminal damage and drug offences; a tighter policy of parole and an unwelcome increase in the remand population, which had almost doubled since 1980 with about 700 added since the end of November last year.

"The overcrowded capacity of the prison system is some 7,000 below last week's population figure. This means that there is severe overcrowding, particularly in remand prisons and, what is worse, 1,400 prisoners are being accommodated in police cells all over south-east England and beyond."

"These cells are wholly unsuited for the long-term accommodation of prisoners. Their use is expensive and can be dangerous. It diverts police officers from their job of preventing and detecting crime and keeping the peace."

Almost a half of the police cells problem resulted from industrial action in some London prisons by members of the Prison

Officers' Association (POA). Such action was irresponsible.

Work was already in hand to make community service orders more demanding and more strictly administered through, for example, the introduction of national standards. He had already announced a big expansion of the programme for providing bail hostels, involving an additional nine hostels at a cost of about £3.8 million.

He intended to issue next month a circular designed to help the courts in taking decisions on bail. In the longer term, he was considering how to build up forms of punishment in the community that were seen by all to present a firm and fair way of dealing with those offenders who did not merit a custodial sentence.

The existing prison building programme involved investment of almost £1 billion. He was announcing today measures to ensure that there was accommodation available to hold prisoners in conditions of proper security.

First, army camps would be opened at Rolleston and Camberley to house a total of about 700 prisoners. Because of the

existing pressures on the police and prison services these would be manned by military police and other personnel acting under the direction of prison management grades.

"This will be a strictly temporary measure to bridge us through the summer until more permanent prison accommodation is available."

Second, through the building programme and other measures, just short of 3,000 additional permanent prison places would be created by this time next year. Of those, 1,300 would come on stream in the South-east from now into this summer because of the particular need to relieve pressure on the remand system in and around London.

Third, he was planning to reinstate Ashford Remand Centre in Middlesex, which would otherwise close in April for rebuilding. It would become a temporary remand holding centre for about 400 prisoners from late autumn.

Fourth, he had reviewed the existing prison estate for ways of creating additional places by using system-built accommodation and by other means.

"In this way, I plan to add some 800 extra

places from the beginning of 1989. I shall be recruiting the prison staff necessary to man these places."

Fifth, by speeding the existing building programme, he would provide a further 1,000 places from the beginning of 1990. They would be created in purpose-built blocks on existing prison sites.

The combined effect of the measures he had announced and those that he had already put in hand would be to provide just more than 4,000 permanent extra places, with the necessary staff, by the end of the financial year 1988-89, with a further 1,000 starting to come on stream from the very end of 1989.

"This is an energetic response to the massive growth in the prison population. I will not hesitate to take further measures should these seem desirable. We must be ready to think imaginatively to ensure that the Prison Service can meet its obligations."

"I believe, in this context, that the possibility of involving the private sector more closely in aspects of the prison system should be urgently considered."

He had already moved in that direction by establishing the Prison Building Board, which included substantial private-sector representation and the board was inviting the private sector to make proposals for building remand or open facilities faster than in the past.

He would publish a Green Paper on private-sector involvement in all aspects of the remand system, and engage consultants to help to work out the practical implications.

He would also explore whether there might be room to develop privately managed bail hostels, providing more secure conditions than the current range of hostels provided.

"In contrast to the past, this Government's record of commitment to the Prison Service is unparalleled (Labour protests)."

"The further measures which I have announced today underline that commitment. Determination to ensure that public safety and security, as well as decent conditions for Prison Service staff and prison inmates, are attained."

Hurd stance on crisis in jails 'wholly inadequate'

The Government's proposals to increase the number of places available in prisons were dismissed by the Opposition as wholly inadequate.

Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said that the Government's unparalleled commitment to the Prison Service amounted to record crime figures, record prison populations and record prison overcrowding rates and a prison system that was in chaos.

Mr Hurd's response to the crisis "is wholly inadequate and is based more on his desire to play politics with the problem than it is to solve it."

He should accept some of the Government's responsibility for

HOME OFFICE

cept responsibility, too, for the tighter parole policy, which had resulted in a further increase of 2,000 in the prison population, and for failing to provide alternatives to custodial sentences.

"The truth of the matter is that the Home Secretary is trapped between logic and the 1922 Committee, which is why, at the end of his statement, we have all this irrelevant nonsense about privatizing the prison system."

"Everybody knows it will not make a scrap of difference, but it may see the Home Secretary through another difficult afternoon. Good luck to him."

Mr Hurd said that he knew Mr Hattersley's problems were growing in the run-up to the election for the Labour Party, he should still keep some sense of reality.

The latest figures showed that clear-up rates were rising and more criminals were being caught. The courts were responding by sending more people to prison for longer.

Action was being taken on remands. New bail hostels were being built and, from April 1, time limits would be imposed on trials in 14 more police areas. "I hope that, by the time it covers the whole of England and Wales, it will result in a saving of 600 remand prisoners."

There had been a great increase in community service orders, but there was a need to move on to the notion that there could be punishment in the community, as well as punishment in prison. It was not easy to achieve, but it was what the Government was working on.

Mr Hattersley's approach was deeply hypocritical. "We have tried, starting from nothing, to build up a major investment of £1 billion in the prison system. The previous Labour Government not only did nothing, but they inherited a prison building plan, which they cut by 35 per cent in 1976."

Mr Leon Brittan (Richmond, Yorks, C), a former Home Secretary, said that in the short run, faced with a crisis caused in large measure by industrial action, Mr Hurd was right to take urgent measures to make more

places available for the prison system and to accelerate the prison-building programme, which was essential in the long and short term.

Mr Hurd said that it was Mr Brittan who had begun the process of experimental time limits on remand and it was proving successful. It was sensible to proceed step by step and he believed that what he had announced would make a big contribution to solving the problem.

He told Mr Menzies Campbell (North East Fife, SLD) that the army camps would be needed until the late autumn.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Burton, C) asked whether the competition costs of holding prisoners in army camps rather than cells were favourable?

Mr Hurd said that it cost roughly £1,000 a week to keep a prisoner in a police cell and £250 a week to keep them in a prison cell. It would cost roughly £400 a week to keep a prisoner in an army camp.

He told Mr John Morris (Aberavon, Lab) that 1,900 prison officers would be recruited next year. That was 1,360 more than the expected wastage rate.

Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake, C) mentioned elec-

tronic surveillance as one alternative to prison.

Mr Hurd said that the possibilities of electronic tagging would be considered. He was keen that it should not be regarded as a separate thing or as some sort of gimmick, but that it should find its place - if there was a place for it - in the Government's general approach to punishment in the community.

Mr Bruce Groucott (The Wrekin, Lab) said that more citizens were sent to prison per head of population in this country than in any other Western European country, but the streets were not safer.

The present overcrowding was not primarily a result of

people there for violent crimes, but for petty offences that attracted short sentences.

Mr Hurd said that one man's petty offender was another man's dangerous house-breaker. That was exactly the problem.

Mr Simon Barras (Chesham, C) said that considerable time was wasted by prison officers having to accompany prisoners between prison and the courts and having to sit with them in the dock. Was there not a case for privatizing that part of the service?

Mr Hurd said that that was quite right. The time spent in escort work weighed heavily on the service. Such aspects were being examined for possible private sector involvement.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) said that prison workshops were being under-utilized because it was not possible to run them along industrial lines while those in charge regarded them as part of the penal system. Could not the private sector be brought in to manage these workshops?

Mr Hurd said that that was exactly what the Government was doing. Many workshops had been closed because they were not being properly organized or used. The private sector was being relied on more to provide advice to build them up.

Mr Gerald Steinberg (City of Durham, Lab) said that it was not necessary to open army camps because there were empty wings in prisons all over the country. The Government should honour the Fresh Start agreement and recruit prison officers so that they could do their job properly.

Mr Hurd: We are recruiting as fast as we can.

Mr Gregory Knight (Derby North, C) asked what sort of prisoners would be sent to army camps. How soon did Mr Hurd expect the private sector to be providing extra places?

Mr Hurd said that prisoners in Rolleston and Camberley would be "Category C convicted."

There was much to be done on bail hostels. He was "very hesitant" on the managing of convicted prisoners.

Lord Williams of Elvel, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said one of the more depressing features of this Government's attitude to space was the manner in which policy dictated seem to dribble out. The signals sent to other governments were generally negative.

Participation in the Columbus and Canadian programmes would have direct real benefits for British industry as well as sending a clear signal that Britain was still in business. It would be a litmus test of the Government's intentions.



Mr Hurd: Aspects of prison work being examined for possible private sector involvement

ANC workers may get extra protection

The Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, is considering representations on the safety of African National Congress (ANC) workers in London. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told the Commons during questions about the killing of the ANC representative in Paris.

He said that members of the London office had already been advised by the police on their security.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) had asked him to consult Mr Hurd to ensure that ANC representatives here were given adequate police protection in view of the killing of Mr Dulcie September in France and the fact that the South African authorities are clearly operating murder squads in order to ensure that their opponents are put to death.

Sir Geoffrey Howe repeated the Government's commitment to the Gleneagles Agreement. "We shall continue to seek to discourage sporting contacts with South Africa."

Later, Mr Eric Forth (Mid

North, C) said that he supported Sir Geoffrey's robust opposition to economic sanctions against South Africa and asked him to consider following the same policy on sporting links.

Sir Geoffrey said that the Prime Minister had yesterday "clearly reaffirmed our support for the Gleneagles Agreement under which we do try to discourage sporting contacts with South Africa."

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, would Sir Geoffrey, instead of echoing the empty formula which the Prime Minister carefully devised yesterday, state clearly and without equivocation that the Government was totally opposed to British rugby players taking part in the Rest of the World tour in South Africa?

Sir Geoffrey Howe repeated the Government's commitment to the Gleneagles Agreement. "We shall continue to seek to discourage sporting contacts with South Africa."

Later, Mr Eric Forth (Mid

Minister of State, had made a list of all the judicial systems of which the Foreign Office approved or not.

Mr Chalker: It is not the responsibility of this Government to monitor all the judicial processes of other countries. But when human rights issues come to the fore, as in this case, it is the stance of this Government, as I explained on March 16, to appeal for clemency.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab; Mr John Carlisle asks "Why pick on South Africa? The reason the British Government should exercise its influence on South Africa is because Britain underpins the South African economy. When will the British Government stop being the miserable apologist for apartheid South Africa?"

Mr Chalker: This Government is wholly and totally opposed to apartheid. We find it repugnant and wish to see it go as soon as possible. But there is no means of getting it to end by measures which would make a disastrous situation for many black people even worse.

Credits will be paid later

The Inland Revenue is to delay until the end of each tax year payment of small amounts of tax credits attached to dividends and repayments of tax deducted from some interest and other payments.

Mr Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, explained in a written reply that individuals who were not liable to tax could claim payment of tax credit attached to dividends and repayments of tax deducted from certain interest and other payments.

Their liability to tax could not be determined until the end of a tax year, but the Inland Revenue had allowed individuals to claim provisional repayment by instalments rather than waiting until the end of the year.

From April 6, 1989, the Inland Revenue would repay tax claimed during a year only when the amount was more than £50.

Workington 'betrayed'

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) made an unsuccessful application for an emergency debate on the proposed closure of the Workington brewery by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries in contravention of assurances given to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1986 to safeguard employment in the area. He claimed that the closure plans had involved dishonesty, deception and betrayal.

SDI business worth £32m

British organizations have so far won research awards connected with the United States Strategic Defence Initiative ("Star Wars") amounting to about £32 million. Mr Timothy Sainsbury, Under Secretary of State, Defence, said in a written Commons reply. He said that the amount was spread over 65 contracts, but he told Mr Harry Cohen (Leyton, Lab) that it was not known what results the business had led to in terms of jobs.

Remand tax

The Secretary of State for Scotland is considering whether prisoners on remand should be exempt from community charge. Mr Ian Lang, Minister of State for Scotland, said in a written reply.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister. Eastern adjournment debates. Lords (11: Licensing Bill, report).

Britain 'must be in the space race'

Britain stands alone in failing to recognize the benefits of staying in the space race, peers on all sides of the House warned the Government during a debate on the Lords committee report on space policy.

In particular, they urged Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to make an eleven-hour contribution to enable Britain to participate in the Columbus polar-orbiting platform and the Canadian satellite programme. Both would open up considerable opportunities.

The deadline for taking part in the Canadian radar satellite project was tomorrow night and

for the American Columbus programme, mid-April.

Opening the debate, Lord Shackleton (Lab) said that, unlike Captain Kirk of the space ship Enterprise, who went "boldly into space", Lord Young did not appear to be going anywhere into space as captain of the department of enterprise.

Lord Shackleton, who chaired the select committee, said it was fairly certain that the technological leaders of the twenty-first century will be those who had gone into space technology.

The somewhat abrasive remarks of Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister of Trade and Industry,

at the European Space Agency negotiations had been unfortunate. The committee agreed with the Government that it should not be involved in the French Hermes space plane. But Britain was alone in backing off from the ESA programme, which it had agreed in 1985.

As the report made clear, the present £120 million annual space budget was the "worst of all worlds" - too much for real savings and too little for lasting achievements. It had recommended a minimum budget of £200 million a year.

All the industrial nations, and some developing countries, are investing in space because they

must have decided there was some good reason. "I cannot believe that we are right to be the only country that is not."

Lord Williams of Elvel, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said one of the more depressing features of this Government's attitude to space was the manner in which policy dictated seem to dribble out. The signals sent to other governments were generally negative.

Participation in the Columbus and Canadian programmes would have direct real benefits for British industry as well as sending a clear signal that Britain was still in business. It would be a litmus test of the Government's intentions.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) had asked him to consult Mr Hurd to ensure that ANC representatives here were given adequate police protection in view of the killing of Mr Dulcie September in France and the fact that the South African authorities are clearly operating murder squads in order to ensure that their opponents are put to death.

Sir Geoffrey Howe repeated the Government's commitment to the Gleneagles Agreement. "We shall continue to seek to discourage sporting contacts with South Africa."

Later, Mr Eric Forth (Mid

Minister of State, had made a list of all the judicial systems of which the Foreign Office approved or not.

Mr Chalker: It is not the responsibility of this Government to monitor all the judicial processes of other countries. But when human rights issues come to the fore, as in this case, it is the stance of this Government, as I explained on March 16, to appeal for clemency.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab; Mr John Carlisle asks "Why pick on South Africa? The reason the British Government should exercise its influence on South Africa is because Britain underpins the South African economy. When will the British Government stop being the miserable apologist for apartheid South Africa?"

Mr Chalker: This Government is wholly and totally opposed to apartheid. We find it repugnant and wish to see it go as soon as possible. But there is no means of getting it to end by measures which would make a disastrous situation for many black people even worse.

Minority parties lose committee place

Minority parties have lost the one place offered to them on the select committee that will consider how the experiment of televising the Commons is to be carried out because they could not agree among themselves who should be that representative.

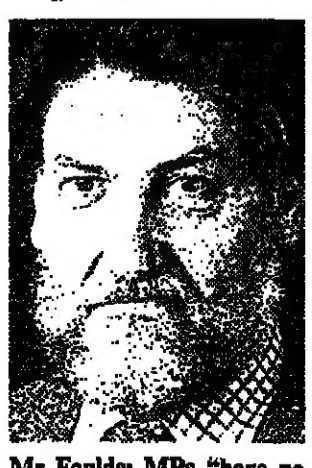
The smaller parties demanded that they should have two places, one for a supporter and one for an opponent of televising the proceedings in the House.

The select committee was set up after a debate in the early hours of Wednesday, following a vote to cut the size of the committee from 21 to 20.

This group of 20 comprises 11 members who voted in favour of televising and 9 who voted against, a ratio designed to reflect the balance of opinion in the House.

Much of the debate centred on the contention by the Scottish and Welsh nationalists and the Ulster Unionists that the 11:9 ratio could be made into a 12:10 ratio without upsetting the balance.

They wanted to add two MPs, one supporter of televising and



Mr Faulds: MPs "have no hope of being stars"

one opponent, to the committee so that the minority parties could be fairly represented.

But, instead of thus enlarging the committee to 22 members, the House accepted a proposal that the committee should be limited to 20.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons, said that it had been planned to have 21 members and a place had therefore been left open in the hope

that the minority parties could agree among themselves on a single representative. He was sorry that such an agreement had not been reached.

Mr James Molyneux (Lagan Valley, OUP) said that the House was making a mockery of its claim to be the protector of minorities and the champion of democracy.

Mr Andrew Faulds (Warley East, Lab) said that if all the experienced young Labour MPs who had voted in favour of televising had done so in the hope of becoming national stars, they would have made him a star. The cameras would move in closely on Mr Kinnoch and on the Prime Minister and expose them in the cruellest fashion for the public to observe how they behaved in the chamber.

He said that pressures had been brought to bear on young and inexperienced Labour MPs with "visitations in the room" during the 48 hours preceding the television vote.

Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray,

SNP) asked why the minority parties should be denied the fundamental right to take part in this committee, which looked forward into the twenty-first century. The House ignored the rights aspirations of minorities at its peril.

One of the suggestions passed along to the nationalists and the Unionists was that they should toss a coin to decide who went on to the committee. That was a travesty of democracy and justice.

Mr Robert G. Hughes (Harrow West, C) said that the minority parties should be ashamed of themselves for wasting the time of the House and for holding up the establishment of this important select committee for so many weeks.

They had tried the patience of the House and it was their own fault that they would now be under-represented on the committee.

The amendment proposed by Mr Cranley Ouslow (Woking, C) to change the size of the committee from 21 members to 20 members was carried by 153 votes to 35 - majority, 118. The main motion setting up the

committee, moved by Mr Wakeham, as amended, was agreed without a further division.

The committee members will be: Mr Graham Bright* (Luton South, C), Mr Donald Dixon (South, Lab), Mr Frank Dobson (Holborn and St Pancras, Lab), Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake, C), Mr Roger Gale* (Thanet North, C), Sir Philip Goodhart* (Beckenham, C), Mr Alastair Goodlad* (Edinburgh, C), Sir Anthony Grant* (South West Cambridge, C), Mr Bruce Groucott (The Wrekin, Lab), Mr David Harris (St Ives, C), Mr Robert G. Hughes (Harrow West, C), Mr David Hunt* (Wirral West, C), Mr Eric Illsley* (Barnsley Central, Lab), Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross, Cromarty and Skye, SLD), Mr Anthony Nelson (Chichester, C), Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab), Mrs Joan Ruddock (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab), Mr Richard Tracey* (Sutton, C), Mr John Wakeham* and Mr Brian Wilson (Cunningham North, Lab).

* denotes MPs who voted in February against the principle of introducing television into the House.

Use of chemical weapons by Iraqis causing grave concern

The use of chemical weapons by Iraq in its war with Iran was condemned by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, during Commons questions.

He said that the recent deplorable escalation in the conflict involving missile and chemical weapon attacks on civilians made the immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, calling on both sides to end the war and withdraw to internationally recognized boundaries, all the more essential.

"We have read with the greatest concern reports of Iraqi use of chemical weapons against villages in Kurdistan. If confirmed, and I see no reason to suppose that they will not be, they do represent an increase in the use of these abhorrent and inhumane weapons."

"We have repeatedly made clear our condemnation of them. We have made urgent representations specifically to the Iraqis. Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, has done so in

FOREIGN OFFICE

February in Baghdad, myself in conversation with the Iraqi Foreign Minister on March 15 and to the Iraqi Ambassador at the Foreign Office only yesterday."

Mr Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster, C) said that Western policy was not seen as even-handed and had given Iraq the chance to intensify the war in the most ghastly circumstances.

What consideration had been given to responses by the Iraqis to the UN on Security Resolution 598? What opportunity had been given to call the bluff, if there was a bluff?

Sir Geoffrey said that British policy on this matter was unchanged and was strictly impartial. "We wish to see the earliest possible negotiated end to the conflict."

Iraq had said she would accept and implement the resolution if the Iraqis did so. She wanted a sequence to be followed. Iran had neither ac-

cepted nor rejected the resolution but had engaged in delaying tactics. Both sides had taken actions that had contributed to a worsening of the conflict.

Mr Dafydd Thomas (Meirionnydd Nant Conwy, Pl C) said that in view of the most appalling atrocities committed against the civilian population of the Kurdistan region, it was time the Government initiated further action, at EEC level as well, to ensure that no material that could be used in chemical weapons was supplied from Europe to either side.

Sir Geoffrey: We have worked within the EEC to impose strict export controls on chemical weapons and on chemicals that might be used to produce them.

Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) said that if the Foreign Office or any government with which this country was in association learnt or knew of the origin of chemical materials used, that information should be made public.

Sir Geoffrey replied that that matter should be given the most serious consideration.

Women's equal pay may increase

Verdict of suicide quashed

Inter on U

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Women's victory in equal pay test case may increase claims

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Eleven women won an important "equal pay with men" test case in the Court of Appeal yesterday which will pave the way for many other women to bring claims over earnings which until now have been blocked.

The women, clerical and administrative workers with H and J Quick, Ford dealers, of Manchester, had been barred by an industrial tribunal and Employment Appeal Tribunal from bringing claims for equal pay for work of equal value. That was on the ground that their employer had conducted a "job evaluation" scheme by which jobs are compared to see if similar work is paid at the same rate.

The women claimed that methods used in the company's job evaluation study discriminated against them and failed to comply with the Equal Pay Act 1970.

Yesterday Lord Justice Neill, sitting with Lords Justices Dillon and Woolf, unanimously overturned the finding of the Employment Appeal Tribunal last year which upheld the dismissal of the women's claim by an industrial tribunal.

The women's claim will now be sent back to an industrial tribunal with a direction that it be referred to a member of the panel of independent experts for report.

It was the first time the Court of Appeal had been asked to rule on the way evaluation studies are carried out. The court was told by Mr Anthony Lester, QC, that the discrepancy between men and women's pay was as wide as it had been when the equal pay legislation came into force in 1975.

The Equal Opportunities Commission, which backed the case, said the "landmark decision" was of great importance for the 11 women involved and for "equality of women generally".

Until now, it had been possible for companies using "subjective, so-called 'fit-fair' criteria" to evaluate jobs and thus block equal pay claims by women at tribunals.

The commission welcomed the court's ruling "that the schemes must be objective and must evaluate the demands of the relevant jobs done by women and men using proper factors". It said the decision gave the court's approval to the commission's advice about the need for evaluation schemes to be analytical, as well as free from sex discrimination.

It also reinforced the fundamental right guaranteed by European Community law to equal pay for work of equal value. From now on employers, trades unions and independent consultants would have to ensure that their job evaluation schemes were applied in accordance with the law.

Lord Justice Neill said at yesterday's hearing that in the main the facts about how the job evaluation was done were not in dispute. Once the ranking of the 23 benchmark jobs had been completed the remainder of the original 74 jobs which had been prepared were slotted in.

Finally, the rest of the jobs, including those of the 11 women and their male comparators, were slotted in by management representatives. That process was carried out on a "whole job" basis in each case and without regard to the five factors for which weightings had been calculated.

It was also apparent that the job descriptions which were used did not contain sufficient information to enable the individual factors to be assessed, the judge said.

The "slotting-in" was done on a "whole job" basis and no comparison was made by reference to the selected factors between the demands made on the individual woman and her male counterpart.

"I would decide this matter on the short point that the employers have not proved that in relation to any of the women a valid study was made between her and her male comparator," the judge said.

Letters, page 13

Bonington goes hunting for yeti

By Ronald Faux

"Will you accept a photograph as conclusive evidence?" Chris Bonington, mountaineer, explorer and yeti-hunter inquired of the head of mammals at the Natural History Museum in London yesterday.

A doubt crossed Mr Ian Bishop's brow. No, that would not be enough. The department would require osteological evidence.

"What's that?" Bonington demanded. Bones, the scientist explained. Bits of limb bone or rib cage, a few strands of hair or fragment of tooth. That would be enough.

"This creature, if it exists, has to have shelter. If that is so, it is going to die and leave remains. Everything does. That is what we're interested in," Mr Bishop explained.

The shreds of alleged yeti that he had so far put to scientific scrutiny turned out to be bits of a goat, pieces of tiger and hairs from a bear.

Armed with these orders, bags of plaster of paris for copying yeti tracks, measuring equipment and containers in which to collect yeti droppings, Bonington and his expedition left London bound for Tibet and the remote valleys around the unclimbed peak of Menlungtse (23,458 ft) which he also aims to conquer.

That promises to be a demanding climb but it is the elusive yeti that has attracted the main interest and sponsorship.

The bookmaking firm of William Hill, who are currently offering odds of 66-1 and stands to lose £1 million if the expedition returns with conclusive evidence, also expects something more positive than a picture.

The odds opened at 150-1 but in the bookies' eyes finding a yeti is now reckoned to be half as likely as a landing on Mars by man within 20 years.

Dr Charles Clarke, scientific officer with the expedition and consultant neurologist at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, said: "I think it is highly unlikely that an animal of that size exists, but there is enough evidence to make a



Chris Bonington in a supposed reconstruction of a yeti scalp (Photograph: Bill Warhurst).

careful scientific look worthwhile."

Reports of Yeti sightings and monstrous footprints date back to the nineteenth century, but it was in 1948 that the British mountaineer Bill Tilman referred to the animal in a book describing the attempt to climb Everest 10 years earlier. If fingerprints could hang a man, he wrote, then a footprint should be

conclusive proof that the yeti existed.

Three years later the famous photograph of a yeti print taken by Eric Shipton duly appeared. Zoologists gave this much credence.

In 1955, Ralph Lizard of the Daily Mail set out to hunt the yeti without result and five years later Edmund Hillary returned to London with the scalp of a yeti borrowed from

Khumjung monastery in Nepal. It proved to be made up from the skin of an uncommon breed of goat.

In 1970, Don Whillans claimed he saw a yeti eating a sheep. More recently, sightings have been reported in the Pamir mountains by researchers from Kiev and by the Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messner.

Verdict of suicide quashed

A father won his High Court fight yesterday to quash a suicide verdict on his son.

Leonard de Luca was granted an order by two appeal judges quashing the verdict by the Inner West London coroner in September 1986 that his son, Lewis, aged 15, had committed suicide while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

The boy died 13 months after being shot in the head with an air rifle. He had returned home to Glencair Drive, Ealing, west London, after a party.

His father, a supermarket director, found him with an air gun by his side.

Lord Justice Bingham, sitting with Mr Justice Hutchison, ruled that the case should go back to the same coroner to record a fresh verdict.

The judge said that during the many centuries when suicide was regarded as a crime it had been subject to a rule that death must follow the act within a year and a day.

Suicide had not lost all its criminal implications and a stigma remained.

Lord Justice Bingham said he had been persuaded by the arguments put forward that the "year and a day" must still apply to suicide verdicts.

Integration move on Ulster schools

By David Nicholson-Lord

Schools where Protestants and Roman Catholics are educated together are to receive special treatment as part of the Government's proposed education reforms for Northern Ireland.

A new category of "grant-maintained integrated school" is being created which will be financed solely by the Government and will have first call on capital spending programmes.

The move, outlined in a consultative document published yesterday, is meant as a clear message to Ulster parents that the Government is backing non sectarian education for the contribution it can make to healing Ulster's political divide.

Although hundreds of Catholic pupils are educated in the largely Protestant state system and many Protestants attend schools maintained by the Catholic Church, the number of pupils going to purpose designed non sectarian schools is still very small - fewer than 1,000 out of 330,000. Only seven or eight schools are involved.

The proposals differ from the plan put forward nationally by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, in that

schools with at least 20 per cent of their pupils from the minority community in an area, whether it is Catholic or Protestant, will be able to opt for the new status. If they prove so popular that they cannot accommodate the demand for places, they will receive priority in the allocation of cash for new buildings.

Religious education will form a central feature of the curriculum at schools in the province, although the Government has stopped short of recommending that it should be a foundation subject in the core curriculum.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said: "Far too many of our problems in this province today stem from the fact that many people from one side of the community or the other have never had any real contact with people from the other religion."

Formal talks between Mr King and the non-sectarian Alliance Party on the prospects for a new political initiative in Ulster are likely after Easter, it was indicated yesterday.

Mr King has already had meetings with Unionist leaders and with the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party.

BR says gates could have been open in seconds

By Rodney Cowton
Transport Correspondent

British Rail's London Midland region yesterday claimed that if on the night of the King's Cross fire it had been asked to unlock gates barring a subway which could have been used for evacuation and fire fighting purposes, it could have done so within one minute.

The inquiry into the disaster has been told that it was 30 minutes after a small fire turned into an inferno that the gates were opened and a further 30 minutes before the fire brigade entered the Underground station by that route.

There has been much criticism at the inquiry that the fire brigade did not make earlier use of the subway between the King's Cross Underground station and British Rail's London Midland station thus enabling the fire to be attacked from below.

Because of building works being carried out for British Rail the subway has been closed for several months

between the hours of about 6.45pm and 6.35am and at weekends. The first attempt to use the subway on the night of the fire was at about 7.45pm, when the gates were found to be locked.

Keys had to be obtained from a London Underground official to deal with one set of gates, and a British Rail cleaner opened other gates after he had heard police shouting from behind the locked gates.

British Rail's London Midland region said yesterday that a member of its staff in the Midland City station had both sets of keys, and if asked could have opened both gates. But no request was made and it was only later that railway staff realized the seriousness of what was happening in the Underground station.

Both British Rail and London Underground say the building works at the Midland City station will be completed within about two weeks, and that the subway will then be open whenever Underground services are operating.

London Underground is also considering fitting an emergency but-

ton at the gates, so that its control room can be alerted if there is a need to open the gates.

London Underground has identified about 150 aspects of its activities to be reviewed in the light of the fire. But four months after the disaster, in which 31 people died, the visible signs of change in response to the fire, and to defects which have been exposed by evidence given to the formal inquiry, seem minimal.

The activities being reviewed range from a re-examination of training and safety procedures, to the selection of materials for use where there may be a fire hazard.

In order to reduce the risk of fire on escalators a trial is being carried out at Warren Street station by replacing wooden panels with metal ones, and efforts are being made to find a material for use on the drive mechanisms which will be less combustible than the grease traditionally used.

"No smoking" signs are more prevalent. And a safety officer has been appointed and responsibilities among station managers re-defined.

London Underground refuses to discuss these activities in any detail until it has given evidence to the official inquiry into the disaster.

Among other difficulties on the night of the fire was the problem that at least some Underground staff were uncertain of the location of hydrants. These are located in a variety of different types of housing, and often in side passages between platforms. Since the disaster, signs marked "fire hydrant" have been stuck on the front of the housings, but in most cases in such a way that they are barely visible unless viewed from directly in front.

They give little or no help in locating a hydrant when viewed obliquely along the length of a platform. No attempt has been to standardize the appearance of fire-fighting equipment by painting hydrant housings red.

Where fire equipment is in a minor passage off a main concourse there are no signs indicating in which passage the equipment is stored. London Underground says it is looking at these matters.

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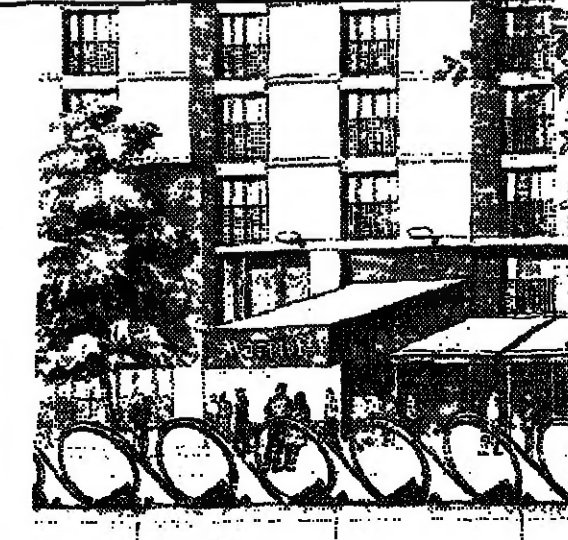
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Assaults hidden from police

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The true scale of violence in Britain's inner cities which is probably seriously underestimated according to a study of assault victims published yesterday.

Surgeons at the accident and emergency department at the Bristol Royal Infirmary found that in a year, fewer than a quarter of the casualties who had suffered violence were recorded by the police.

The results of the study were presented at a conference at Queen's University, Belfast, organized jointly by the British Society for Dental Research and the Irish division of the International Association for Dental Research.

The research was carried out by oral surgeons in Bristol because most of the assaults involved injuries to the mouth.

Mr Jonathan Shepherd, who presented the evidence, said: "There is undoubtedly a

huge amount of violence in our inner cities which is not reported to the police or contained in national crime statistics."

"Hospital records are as reliable as police records as an indicator of increasing violence and represent an important source of information concerning inner city crime."

Mr Shepherd, a consultant in oral surgery, told the conference that 539 assault victims were treated at the Bristol hospital in 1986 but only 23 per cent of those were recorded by the police. This was probably because the priority for most victims was to get emergency treatment for their injuries and in many cases there was reluctance to involve the police he said.

Most of the 539 victims were male between the ages of 16 and 34. Those who were single or divorced and unemployed were more at risk.

In St Paul's, the poorest area of Bristol, males aged 16 to 29 had a one in eight chance of being assaulted and requiring hospital treatment. Alcohol featured in most of the incidents.

Most of the assaults (35 per cent) took place in public houses and discotheques, 28 per cent occurred in the street and 17 per cent in the home.

"The hospital and police knew about almost entirely different populations of victims, confirming that police data underestimates assault", Mr Shepherd said.

He added that the high incidence of violence in the inner city area of Bristol was probably caused because younger people gathered there in public houses, clubs and other venues as there was a lack of leisure and recreational facilities in outlying areas of the city.

Teeth kit to help the blind

By Our Science Correspondent

A "touch tooth" kit to help teach dental health to the blind and the visually impaired has been developed by researchers at Queen's University, Belfast.

The kit which contains oversized models of teeth, a "jigsaw jaw" and the sounds and the smells of a dental surgery, is to be launched in Britain in April.

It has drawn international attention and is likely to be sold to health authorities in Europe, Africa and India. The Department of Health and Social Security is considering how to support the launch.

entire, of the university's school of dentistry, said yesterday: "We don't think there is anything else like it in the world and we believe it will be of immense help in giving the visually impaired a much better understanding of tooth decay and how to prevent it."

The kit which will initially cost about £1,700 was described to the conference at the university yesterday by Mr Lindsay Geary, the technical expert who helped to develop it.

The jigsaw jaw is the size of a dinner plate containing all the human teeth which can be removed individually. The kit

also contains tape recordings of dental surgery sounds such as drilling and cleaning, and bottles containing ingredients such as oil of cloves to recreate surgery smells.

In another research project dental scientists have used computerized scans and lasers to build up three-dimensional pictures of how the faces of patients with cleft palates will look after corrective surgery.

"There is a close similarity between the predicted effect of the face and the actual surgical result", the researchers from the University College and Middlesex School of Dentistry reported to the conference.

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BRITISH MIDLAND

WORLD ROUNDUP

Iranians attack Kuwaiti island

Bahrain — Iranian gunboats attacked Bubiyan Island off the coast of Kuwait in a bold daylight raid yesterday (A Correspondent writes). The Kuwaiti Defence Ministry said the attackers wounded two soldiers at military posts and defenders returned fire with artillery.

Witnesses on board vessels in the area said that the Iranian boats opened fire from several hundred yards offshore and the firing lasted a few minutes, causing negligible damage on shore and none to the attacking craft. The three boats then withdrew towards the east.

● LONDON: The Iraqi Ambassador to London, Dr Mohammed al-Mashat, was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday to be told of the Government's "gravest concern" over reports of the use of chemical weapons in the Kurdish town of Halabja, which was overrun by Iran recently. He was told that this represented a "serious and grave" violation of international agreements covering human rights and the use of chemical weapons.

Bucharest denial Royal hint to Mara

A senior official of the Romanian Orthodox Church, Bishop Nifon of Floresti, has said that contrary to reports in the West, the Patriarchal Palace and Cathedral in Bucharest will not be demolished to make way for a controversial new street development (Anatol Lieven writes).

A number of historic churches, together with a large area of old Bucharest, have been demolished in the past five years as part of President Ceausescu's project to build a new government complex and a grand Boulevard of the Victory of Socialism. The Bishop was speaking in London, where he was attending a meeting.

Manila rebel held Faure dies aged 79

Manila — The commander-in-chief of the communist New People's Army, Mr Romulo Kintanar, was paraded before journalists by the Philippine military yesterday after being seized with other communist officials in raids on rebel houses in Manila (Humphrey Hawkesley writes).

Those arrested were said to include two other members of the party's central committee, and President Aquino said: "It clearly demonstrates that we are winning the war against the communist insurgents." Military analysts described the arrests as a serious setback for the rebels.

Paris — M Edgar Faure, one of France's foremost elder statesmen, died in Paris yesterday aged 79 (Susan MacDonald writes). President Mitterrand and the Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, expressed their regrets at the death of the man *Le Monde* yesterday called a magician in politics.

In a career which started as a member of De Gaulle's provisional Government in Algeria in 1942, M Faure was a minister nine times in successive governments between 1949 and 1973, elected president of the National Assembly from 1973 to 1978 and elected to the Académie Française.

Pressure on Reagan to fire Meese

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The abrupt resignation of six top officials of the US Justice Department has dramatically underlined the growing crisis over Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General.

With the Administration's enforcement of the law floundering, pressure has grown on President Reagan to dismiss his long-standing friend, whom even Republicans admit is an embarrassment and election liability.

Mr Meese's two top assistants, Deputy Attorney-General Arnold Burns and Assistant Attorney-General William French, urged Mr Howard Baker, the White House Chief of Staff, to press President Reagan for a swift dismissal of Mr Meese.

They said his legal problems were impeding the depart-

ment's work and tarnishing the credibility of law enforcement.

One official said: "These are truly resignations of conscience; they simply couldn't work for Ed Meese any longer."

The turmoil in the department increased yesterday with the announcement by Mr Charles Fried, the Solicitor-General, that he too was pondering his future. Mr Fried, a respected academic lawyer now faced with day-to-day management of the department's 71,000 employees as Acting Deputy Attorney-General, said he would think over his position.

Mr Meese was said to be "stunned" by the resignations, but has refused to comment on these first public moves



against him by members of his own department. Last month he said he would not be hounded out of office by "partisan political attacks and by media barrages".

President Reagan, notoriously loath to dismiss any of his officials, reaffirmed his confidence in Mr Meese.

Mr Meese is under investigation by a special prosecutor on at least three different counts: his role in an

aborted Iraqi oil pipeline project, his ties to the scandal-plagued Wedtech Corporation, and his financial affairs. Two of his close friends and associates have been indicted on corruption charges; Mr Meese himself has appeared 15 times before a grand jury.

The criminal investigation by Mr James McKay has turned up further embarrassing information about Mr Meese's finances and is looking at allegations that Mr Robert Wallach, Mr Meese's close friend and lawyer now under indictment, had improperly helped Mr Meese's wife obtain jobs. Mr McKay is expected to announce within weeks whether he will bring charges against Mr Meese.

The Democrats have seized on the Meese affair as the most glaring example of the "slazebag factor" in the Reagan

Administration. Senator Robert Byrd, the Democratic majority leader, called Mr Meese the "crown jewel of the slazebag factor" and demanded his resignation.

All the presidential candidates have repeatedly denounced the continued presence in the Cabinet of a man who spends more time defending himself than in fighting crime.

The list of Reagan Administration officials who have been indicted, jailed, or forced to resign amid allegations of corruption runs to well over 100 — more than in any other recent administration — and includes officials from the Pentagon, the Environmental Protection Agency and many other agencies.

Two of Mr Reagan's closest advisers, Mr Michael Deaver, a former top White House

aide, and Mr Lyn Nofziger, a former political adviser, have been convicted and await prison sentences — Mr Deaver for perjury over his lobbying business and Mr Nofziger for breaching the ethics law on lobbying.

In addition, Rear-Admiral John Poindexter, the former National Security Adviser, and his aide, Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, have been charged with criminal actions in the Iran-Contra affair.

Widespread corruption has given rise to a corroding cynicism in Washington. Coupled with the large number of jobs unfilled as officials leave the Government, it has added to a general feeling of drift and paralysis in the Administration which may damage the Republican election chances.

Column profile, page 11

New York showdown for Dukakis



Governor Michael Dukakis, addressing a fund-raising rally at the Waldorf Astoria in New York. Despite his Connecticut win, New York, with its big pickings in delegates, will be the stage for his showdown with the Rev Jesse Jackson.

Connecticut brake on Jackson

From Charles Bremner, New York

A strong win by Governor Michael Dukakis in affluent Connecticut has slowed the Jesse Jackson express but done nothing to calm the fears of a Democratic Party now realizing that it could finish the primary season with no candidate who would stand a chance against Vice-President George Bush in the presidential election next November.

Mr Dukakis completed his sweep of all six New England states with a stronger than expected 59 per cent of the Connecticut vote against 28 per cent for Mr Jackson, with Tennessee's Senator Al Gore receiving only 8 per cent. The Massachusetts governor and the black preacher-populist now hold an estimated 635 delegates each for the July party convention, where more than 2,000 are needed to win.

For Mr Bush, his 75 per cent win in Connecticut was icing on the cake since Senator Robert Dole threw in the towel and promised to support the Vice-President as the Republican nominee.

New York's "delegate-rich" primary on April 19 now

looks as the make-or-break Dukakis-Jackson showdown, after much smaller contests in Colorado and Wisconsin over the next week.

With New York his last hope to stay in the race, Mr Gore yesterday broke the taboo among white contenders against attacking Mr Jackson. He denounced Mr Jackson's pro-Palestinian views — an obvious appeal to New York's huge Jewish constituency — and said he had a "complete and total lack of experience" for the White House.

"We're not choosing a preacher — we're choosing a President," he said. In Wisconsin, the Democratic disarray has been heightened by a mischief-making appeal from the local Republican governor for his party's voters to back Mr Jackson in the primary. Under local law, citizens may vote for any party in the primary. But with blacks making up only 5 per cent of the Wisconsin electorate, Mr Jackson would require a high proportion of whites to beat Mr Dukakis there. As right-wing

commentators pounded home their gloom over the Democratic mess yesterday, one of the party's most respected strategists sounded a grim warning.

Mr Patrick Caddell, who has advised the last four party presidential nominees, said the Democratic electorate was "sending a collective message of disgust and dismissal to their political leaders".

"The voters have touched off an electoral earthquake," he said in a long article in *The New York Times*. "For the first time in more than 25 years, Democratic voters have failed to anoint a compelling front-runner or to provide even an outline of the campaign's definition." Mr Caddell blamed changes to the selection process, introduced after 1984, and graded Mr Jackson as the only candidate who projected "a programme of real change and a vision of a hopeful and more just future".

If Mr Jackson fails to break through and "reshape America's political calculus", the party would be obliged to draft an electable candidate from

outside the field, he said. Such thinking, and the imminence of the crucial New York primary, has intensified speculation that Mr Mario Cuomo, the state governor, could be the party's best choice, or at least play a king-making role.

Mr Cuomo added a fresh layer of ambiguity to his position yesterday by appearing to favour Mr Jackson and once again refusing to say whether he would accept a draft.

The nominees should be the man with most votes, Mr Cuomo said. "If that's Jesse Jackson, wonderful." Before the collapse of Mr Dukakis in the Michigan contest, a week ago, Mr Cuomo was widely believed to have been on the verge of endorsing him.

Asked again after Connecticut why he did not rule out accepting a draft, the brooding New York governor said: "Why don't you just write: 'The man says there should be no draft. That means he doesn't want a draft. He's not interested in a draft.'" *Spectrum*, page 11

US changes rules in Star Wars game

The Pentagon is reported to be scaling down its plans for President Reagan's cherished Strategic Defence Initiative. Instead of aiming to provide the United States with the comprehensive "cover" — a "space security shield" — as originally intended, it will now seek to protect only vital military installations from a missile attack.

This change is seen as a recognition of the obvious and a development in American strategic thinking of the last few years. It has been widely appreciated in Washington for some time that Mr Reagan's original concept was unrealistic. SDI could never offer total protection for the American people against nuclear weapons.

A system that was able to safeguard military targets alone could, however, serve a valuable purpose. It would provide further reassurance that the American capacity for nuclear retaliation could not be knocked out in a surprise attack. It would therefore reinforce the doctrine of deterrence: a first strike against the West could not be decisive.

But this would be very different from the original idea of SDI, which was not to reinforce the doctrine of deterrence but to replace it with the assurance of effective defence against a nuclear attack.

This is the first reason why the new Pentagon thinking is important. It means that, even if SDI is developed successfully, it will not have such a dramatic effect on strategic concepts as was at first thought.

The second reason why it is important is that this report is likely to strengthen the conviction of those who believe that, after President Reagan retires, the project will be allowed to wither for lack of funds. Neither the next President nor the next Congress, if it is anything like the present one, seems likely to devote the resources that would enable SDI to become operational in the near future.

There are some signs that the Soviet leaders have come to share this view. The more they do so the better the prospects for a SALT agreement, either when Mr Reagan goes to Moscow in May or later in the year. If they believe that the chances of deployment have diminished they will no longer be so concerned to make SDI a sticking point, unless they do so for tactical reasons. It is whether deployment



Geoffrey Smith

seems likely, rather than the scale of SDI, that is critical in this context. The prospect of even a modified SDI would alarm the Soviet Union and might create problems for Britain and France as well.

If there were complete deadlock over the meaning of the ABM Treaty, the Russians might conclude that the United States was not simply conducting research but was actively preparing to deploy as soon as possible. In that case the Soviet Union might respond by itself deploying another anti-ballistic missile system, even though that would infringe the treaty.

I am not convinced that that would be the Soviet reaction. Nothing would be more calculated to alarm American opinion and to convince the United States that it really must devote more resources to SDI, which is precisely what the Soviet Union wishes to avoid.

But there is clearly a risk that the Soviet leaders might decide to go ahead themselves if they believed that the United States was determined to do so anyway. That would be against British interests.

The more the Soviet Union deploys anti-ballistic missile defences, the greater the danger that British and French deterrents would be rendered ineffective. Our security would not be enhanced by making Europe once again safe for conventional warfare.

This is not an argument against pursuing research on SDI. It is only prudent to do so when it is known that the Soviet Union is conducting similar research of its own. But the British, and indeed the West European, interest is best served at this stage by the formulation used so often by President Reagan's disarmament adviser, Mr Paul Nitze: SDI is a research project, nothing more and nothing less.

Curbs extended to Soviet Georgia

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Soviet authorities have imposed curbs on demonstrations in the republic of Georgia in an attempt to prevent any outbreak of ethnic unrest similar to that in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Georgian Communist Party paper, *Zarya Vostoka*, announced that spontaneous protests had been barred in the republic, which has a population of more than five million. Those breaking the new rules would face up to three years in prison or be fined up to \$500.

The restrictions were seen as evidence that the Kremlin had information that disaffected minorities in Georgia might be planning protests along the lines of those in

Armenia and Azerbaijan. A senior justice official said that people absent from work for more than three hours because they had attended an illegal demonstration could be sacked under the new regulations. A news blackout was also imposed.

Similar restrictions were introduced last week in both Armenia and Azerbaijan after a Kremlin decision to crack down on the unrest which, according to official figures, has already caused 34 deaths and more than 200 injuries.

The official press reported that party activists were asking stay-at-home strikers in the disputed Azerbaijan region of Nagorno-Karabakh to end their action.

Today, New Scientist drops a bomb on nuclear theory

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Queen of Gossip hits out in tough war of words

From Our Own Correspondent New York

London's gossip columnist may fling a little vitriol among themselves from time to time, but it is watery stuff compared with the New York version. Newspaper readers awoke yesterday to savour a smoking broadside of epithets by one columnist at another that amounted to a *tour de force* even by local standards.

"Ugly, slimy, sneaky, snake, rat," were among the terms lavished by Suzy, the blonde *grande dame* of Manhattan gossip writers, on James Revson, an audacious upstart who took a swipe at her ethics and challenged her three-decade supremacy while she was taking the sun in Mustique.

The battle of the columnists began last week, when Mr Revson, the 35-year-old son of the founder of Revlon

and a new columnist at *Newsday*, the smallest city daily, accused Suzy of cheating her readers in *The New York Post* by falsely reporting the presence of a long list of celebrities at a Metropolitan Museum gala.

Mr Revson, who was there, said not only Mr Joseph Papp, Mr Steve Martin, Ms Victoria Tennant, Mr Luis Aischelmann and Suzy absent, but those who were present ate only shrimps and not caviar, as she reported.

"I want Suzy's job. It's fun. It's simple. It's such a breeze. She doesn't even have to leave the house," Mr Revson wrote of his rival, whose real name is Aileen Mehle and whose breathless accounts of upper-crust gatherings reach an audience of more than 30 million across the country.

Despite her continuing daily column, Suzy was nowhere to be found when the writers of *The New York*

Times and other papers sought her out for reaction last week. "In all probability, it was a masked ball and difficult to identify the attendees," said the *Post* editor, Frank Devine.

Yesterday she reappeared and confessed that she had written a week's worth of columns in advance of her holiday on Princess Margaret's favourite retreat, and drawn her evening at the Met from a press release. But contrition was not in it.

"Well, it seems you just can't leave town without a crock hitting the fan. This time the slime oozed from a jerk at *Newsday*; someone no one I ever heard of."

"I want Suzy's job," the liar and snake starts his riveting column... You gave yourself away, malicious, sneaky and ugly-mean. Dear readers, fans and publicity seekers, I would like to go on record as telling the world that any place Rat Revson is, I will not be."

In her field, Suzy said she was the best and the brightest, and that if anyone wanted to knock her out it would have to be a bigger man than Revson.

Suzy's main rival, Liz Smith of the *Daily News*, tried to stay above the fray, noting only that the "nouvelle ancienne société" was talking about Mr Revson "slapping the Queen".

But *The New York Times*, in a gleeful account of the feud, suggested that accuracy was secondary to a gossip's function. "The bold-faced names in Suzy's column know this. They would rather the world thought they were at the Met with Suzy than sitting home watching television and eating a Chinese take-out."

As a parting shot, Suzy said Mr Revson was a liar because of his claim that he had recently been introduced to her. "Nobody introduced me to him because nobody I know knows him."

French Communists march downhill

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The French Communist Party's candidate for President held his first campaign press conference in Paris yesterday, and it felt very much like a wake.

As M André Lajoinie knows all too well, the party is in for a drubbing. Perhaps that explains the melancholy demeanour of a man whose lacklustre public performances have led *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the merciless satirical weekly, to dub him "Monsieur Dupont" (the equivalent of Mr Smith to us).

Although M Lajoinie, who is aged 59, did his best to appear cheerful yesterday,

demonstrating that he has a pleasant smile, the opinion polls are unremittingly bleak. The way things are going at present, even the party's modest objective of doing no worse than it did in the 1986 parliamentary elections remains beyond reach.

To put things in context, that was the French Communists' most dismal performance since the Second World War, with their share of the vote falling below 10 per cent. And as if that is not hard enough for what was the country's largest single party in the late 1940s, the opinion polls show that M Dupont — sorry, Lajoinie — is now

struggling to break through the 5 per cent mark.

At yesterday's gathering, after a ritual bashing of the capitalist press, the candidate described himself as "a realistic optimist". Reading between the lines, this seems to mean that, despite the disaster which overtook the party after it went into partnership with President Mitterrand in the 1981 presidential election, M Lajoinie sees no alternative to backing the great manipulator again in order to beat the right in the second round.

To make poor M Lajoinie's life even more difficult, he has an unofficial Communist candidate at his shoulder who is,

by common consent, the more accomplished campaigner. M Pierre Juquin was once the party's official spokesman, a bright and personable young man reckoned to be going places. That was until 1985, when he collided with the keeper of French Communist orthodoxy, the formidable M Georges Marchais.

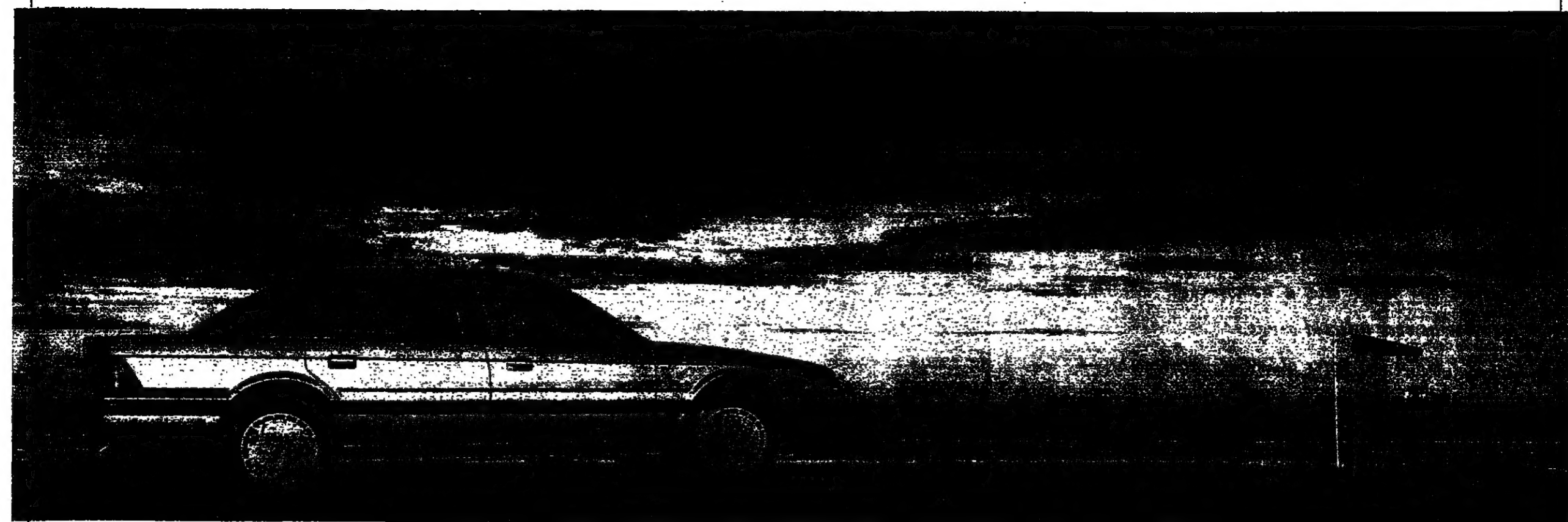
The issue, in that pre-glassness era, was "renovation", the codeword for turning the party from a slavish adherence to the Moscow line that was already costing it dearly in votes back home. For this heresy, M Juquin and other dissenters were arraigned, in Stalinist fashion,

before the general congress, then booted out of the party.

It is now M Juquin's dearest wish to dish out some punishment of his own, to which end he is running an energetic, if severely under-financed, spoiling campaign. He would have derived much pleasure from learning, not long ago, that a significant number of France's card-carrying Communists appeared to have had no idea that he was not their official candidate.

At the last count, M Juquin's support was around the 3 per cent mark. If it holds there, he will have done his bit to ruin the day for his former comrade.

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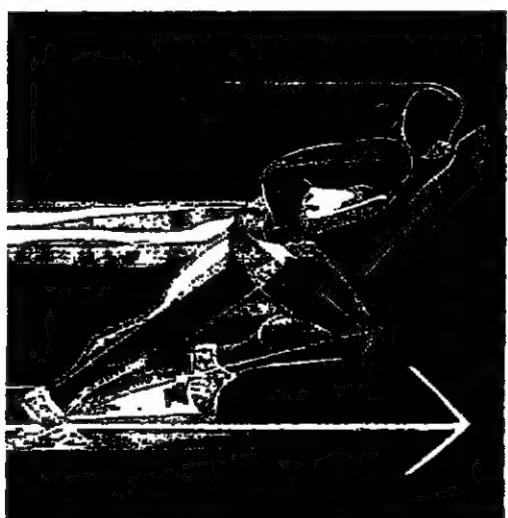


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VAT changes face growing EEC opposition

By Michael Dines

The European Commission could be forced to revise drastically controversial proposals to standardize value-added tax in the Community, following the publication next month of a report on the impact the measures would have on the VAT and excise regimes of the 12 member states.

The proposals, which have been described by Lord Cockfield, Britain's senior European Commissioner, as vital to the creation of an integrated domestic market by 1992, have been dismissed by Britain's Secretary for Trade and Industry, Lord Young, as completely unnecessary. It is a position which is finding increasing sympathy among other member states.

Refusing to give ground, Lord Cockfield insists that one of the most important barriers to free

trade is the existence of differing national rates of indirect taxation and excise duties, which require the maintenance of time-consuming border controls to check goods crossing internal frontiers.

Lord Cockfield has called for the removal of fiscal controls from the internal frontiers and the introduction of a clearing mechanism to allocate VAT revenues between member states.

But Lord Cockfield has also insisted that member states will have to approximate their VAT regimes by introducing a standard VAT rate (between 14 per cent and 20 per cent) for most products, and a reduced rate (between 4 per cent and 9 per cent) for socially sensitive items, abolish zero-rating and harmonize excise duties - if trade distortions are to be avoided.

These proposals have generated enormous controversy throughout the Community. In Britain, where between 25 per cent and 30 per cent

of consumer spending is currently zero-rated, consumers would have to pay VAT on a range of items, including food, energy, children's clothes and shoes, sewage, water, books, periodicals and newspapers, drugs, passenger travel and new construction.

Denmark, Ireland and Italy would have to make massive cuts in indirect taxation in order to bring them into line with the rest of the EEC, while Luxembourg, Spain and Portugal would have to introduce hefty increases.

Action to reduce wine lake

Brussels - EEC farm ministers yesterday agreed to implement tough new controls on subsidies to reduce the Community's wine surplus (Jonathan Brande writes).

Their decision, which also offers payments to farmers for scrapping vineyards producing low quality grapes, ends months of negotiations

on a series of budgetary "stabilizers" aimed at curbing spending. The stabilizers were accepted in principle by EEC leaders at their Brussels summit meeting earlier this month, but the details were left for agriculture ministers to sort out. One of their next tasks will be to re-examine the "green" pound rate.

In addition, the Commission's proposals to harmonize excise duties, would force Britain to reduce taxes on cigarettes and alcohol by 50 per cent, while the Mediterranean countries would be obliged to introduce huge increases.

Most observers are convinced that next month's report by the European Commission's economic and monetary committee will be compelled to take account of the widespread disruption the Commission's VAT proposals would have on national indirect taxation

regimes, particularly in view of the anxieties recently expressed by Bonn and Paris.

Moreover, there is growing evidence to suggest that VAT approximation, as envisaged by the European Commission, is unnecessary for the creation of an integrated internal market and, indeed, any attempt to do so would result in the Commission becoming embroiled in a battle with member states, thereby diverting it from the primary objective of establishing the internal market.

According to a report published in February by Britain's Institute of Fiscal Studies, completion of the internal market does not require drastic changes to national VAT regimes. All that is needed to prevent serious distortions of trade are minimum VAT thresholds which would inhibit competition between member states in reducing VAT. The report advocates replacing the Commission's two VAT

bands with two VAT floors, thereby permitting member states to set higher rates if they so desire.

It also maintains that countries geographically isolated from the Community, such as Britain, Ireland and Greece, could be allowed to go below the floors without any detrimental effect on other member states.

On the assumption that hordes of French and German shoppers would not flock to Britain in order to exploit lower rates of indirect taxation, Westminster would be free to maintain zero-rating on a variety of consumer goods.

Although the report acknowledged that different rates of indirect taxation would be likely to encourage cross-border shopping in areas of close geographical proximity, such as Denmark and Belgium, it pointed out that it was no business of the Commission to protect member states from the consequences of their own high indirect taxation policies.

13 die in attacks blamed on Sikhs

Amritsar (Reuters) - Thirteen people have been shot dead by suspected Sikh separatists in the northern Indian state of Punjab.

Four members of a Sikh family were shot in their home near the Sikh holy city, while another five people were killed in two villages near by. A political activist was shot on the outskirts of Amritsar and three others died in separate shootings.

Airline protest

Madrid - As employees of Spantax continued to occupy the bankrupt airline's planes at Madrid and Palma de Mallorca airports to prevent their sale to creditors before payment of their wages, police dispersed other employees blocking the road leading to Palma airport.

Jet crashes

Bonn - A French Air Force Mirage fighter crashed less than one mile from two active nuclear power plants and a closed atomic installation in Bavaria, killing the pilot.

Troops kill 8

Delhi (Reuters) - Eight people were killed when Indian troops fired on a mob which broke into their barracks protesting over their alleged assault of a policeman.

Drugs swoop

Wiesbaden (Reuters) - West German, Danish, Dutch, Swedish and Turkish police joined forces in a swoop on international drug rings, arresting 14 people.

Nearer heaven

Tokyo (Reuters) - Soaring land prices have prompted city authorities to end the allocation of conventional graves. Public cemeteries will now be in multi-storey buildings.

Off-guard

Paris (AFP) - Striking security guards demanding more staff have closed The Louvre and Versailles.

Traffic ban

Budapest (Reuters) - Traffic is to be banned from all but two central streets in as part of a campaign against pollution.

Summit team

Paris (AFP) - An international climbing team will leave Paris on Saturday to tackle the Himalayan peak of Annapurna.

Gold harvest

Beenleigh (Reuters) - A fruit farmer in this Queensland town unearthed a gold nugget, weighing more than 11 lb and worth about £45,000.

Famine in Ethiopia

Stepped-up guerrilla raids threaten food deliveries

By Andrew McEwan, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Ethiopian famine, which only two months ago looked manageable, is rapidly escalating towards a tragedy on the scale of the 1984 disaster.

British diplomats on the spot, MPs who had visited Ethiopia recently, and Mr Christopher Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, have reached a unanimously grim assessment of the chances of preventing large-scale starvation.

Mr Patten, who sounded cautiously hopeful after visiting Ethiopia in January, yesterday gave a picture of unrelieved gloom at a hearing of the Commons select committee on foreign affairs.

He said that relief efforts were being seriously hampered by stepped-up fighting between the Ethiopian Government and the two main separatist movements, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, and the Tigré People's Liberation Front. At the same time a further intensification of the drought had reduced the small local output of food crops.

But he emphasized that the fight to save the three million people threatened had not been abandoned. "While the outlook is very dark there are an awful lot of people working exceptionally hard to prevent the worst happening," he said, praising the efforts of the Save the Children Fund, Oxfam, Care and other agencies.

The view from diplomatic sources was equally pessimistic. One senior official said that if attacks on food convoys succeeded in halting distribution of grain for a month, large numbers of people would die.

Already 1.5 million in Tigré and a further 1.5 million in Eritrea are considered threatened.

The Ethiopian disaster always had more to do with distribution problems than lack of food. Donor countries, with Britain prominent among them, were far quicker off the mark when the first signs of serious drought were spotted last autumn than in 1984. So far, the supplies reaching the principal ports of Massawa and Assab have been adequate.

But as early as last October an EPLF attack destroyed 34 trucks carrying food aid, and by last weekend a total of 100 vehicles had been lost.

Diplomatic sources said that a convoy of 72 United Nations trucks carrying 1,500 tonnes got through from Asmara to Wukro on Monday, averting the threat of immediate starvation. But in the previous three weeks only three much smaller convoys had successfully made the same journey. Unless the pace of deliveries could be increased, starvation would follow.

"We have been coping for the past month with considerable difficulties moving food around in Tigré," Mr Patten said. He denounced the two movements for escalating the civil war.

"One is obliged to wonder how much the EPLF and the TPLF actually care about the lives of the people they purport to represent," he said, adding that explanations given by these groups should be taken "with a warehouse of salt". The Ethiopian Govern-

ment had responded by moving large quantities of military supplies to the north, he said, expressing concern that vehicles, which might otherwise have been used to deliver food, had been caught up in the war effort.

Mr Patten said that food was now being used as a weapon of war. It was useless to appeal to the parties to the conflict to reduce the fighting.

If RAF planes were sent they would serve as replacements, not additions, to the 10 aircraft already operating on behalf of international agencies, he said.

He said that five Hercules transports, three Antonovs and two DC3s were delivering 12,000 tonnes of food a month, equal to half the needs of Tigré. Britain remained the largest single contributor to the United Nations part of this effort. Mr Patten gave no hint of any change in British aid policy, which has been weighted towards famine relief channelled through charities, with only small amounts of government-to-government development aid. But he said that recent changes in Ethiopian Government agricultural policies, which he has previously described as "Stalinist" would unlock at least part of the development funds which the EEC and the world bank have been withholding.

Both organizations are now preparing to fund development projects, but Mr Patten said it would be necessary to keep "a beady eye" on Addis Ababa's performance. ■ NAIROBI: Both guerrilla movements have claimed important victories in the past

month (Andrew Buckoock writes). Although the Government has denied the claims, it has evidently been on the receiving end of rebel offensives, and its control over large parts of the northern provinces of Tigré and Eritrea may be in doubt.

The EPLF, which has been fighting for Eritrean independence for 27 years, says it crushed three infantry divisions in capturing Afabet, a town 100 miles north of Asmara.

An EPLF claim, that it had captured three Soviet advisers in the fighting, has been confirmed by the Soviet Foreign Ministry. If the EPLF can consolidate its hold on Afabet, it will have advanced the front by about 25 miles. In the past, however, it has often proved unable or unwilling to defend positions against counter-attacks. The notable exception is its battered stronghold at Nakfa, which has resisted repeated assaults since 1978.

The TPLF claims to have killed 2,500 government troops while overturning the garrisons at the three small towns of Abey Adi, Sinkata and Wukro early this month.

If the TPLF's successes are confirmed it would demonstrate that, after 13 years, it has finally become militarily significant.

The TPLF's relief wing is proving unable to transport sufficient food from Sudan to the areas it controls, although the EPLF has adequate food for people in the areas it controls, which may help to explain why it has been responsible for most of the attacks on convoys.

Princess Royal cuts a dash



The Princess Royal accepting the gift of a Tasmanian timber-cutter's hardwood axe when she presented prizes at a woodcutting contest during the Sydney Easter Show yesterday.

Cross-border pollution

Mulroney ultimatum to US

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, has taken Canada's fight against American acid-rain pollution to a most unlikely forum.

He visited New York recently to receive an award from the Pan American Society for his contributions to the strengthening of relations among countries of the Western hemisphere.

In his acceptance speech he talked as might have been expected, about inter-American co-operation, the Central American peace plan and Third World development.

But he ruffled a few feathers in his audience, largely made up of prominent US industrialists and businessmen, with a vigorous portrayal of how Canada is being ravaged by pollution from the US. "Friendship has inescapable costs," said Mr Mulroney, who has made close relations with the US a hallmark of his Administration. "One of them

is bearing whatever burdens are required to avoid polluting your neighbour's property with destructive wastes."

Half of all the sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide pollutants that fall on Canada in the form of acid rain come from industrial plants in the US, Mr Mulroney said. The cost has been devastating: 14,000 Canadian lakes already dead and many times that number in danger; nearly 85 per cent of eastern Canada's best agricultural land receiving unacceptably high levels of acid; 19 salmon-bearing rivers in Nova Scotia killed by acid rain; and forests exposed to acidic rainfall.

"Even our maple sugar industry is in jeopardy," he said. He took direct issue with US officials who have been arguing that the whole question needs more scientific study. That was an excuse "to avoid action". By contrast, Canada has taken tough mea-

sures against pollution. He vowed to raise the acid rain issue with President Reagan again in Washington on April 27 at what is likely to be the last of their annual bilateral meetings.

The bluntness of Mr Mulroney's message - he was even blunter in a US television interview, warning that acid rain will damage relations unless effectively tackled - reflects the huge pressure he is under to get the Americans to take action on the problem. His political opponents frequently taunt him with reminders that, for all his carefully-cultivated friendship with President Reagan, the US Administration is still dragging its feet on the most serious irritant in Canada-US relations. The day after Mr Mulroney's speech Mr John Turner, the Liberal opposition leader, accused him of letting the Americans get away "with vague promises".

Israeli troops raid village in Lebanon

From Juan Carlos Guncio, west Beirut

Israeli troops, supported by tanks and gunners of their allied militia, yesterday shelled and raided a semi-deserted Shia Muslim village controlled by guerrillas in southern Lebanon killing at least five people and injuring five others.

The large-scale, six-hour attack came as thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese staged the biggest pro-Palestinian demonstrations in Beirut, Sidon and Tyre in several years.

Israeli troops, and militiamen of the mainly Christian "South Lebanon Army" reportedly advanced over the remote village of Kfar Roummane under cover of heavy tank and mortar fire shortly after dawn. Reporters in the south said at least 15 houses were destroyed by shellfire that pounded the village and the town of Nabatieh nearby.

The Israelis regard Kfar Roummane as a springboard for Muslim guerrillas fighting

the continued occupation of the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon. But four of those killed were civilians who were shot dead by SLA gunmen during a house-to-house search, a hospital source told reporters after the Israelis withdrew to their self-proclaimed "security zone" one mile south of the village.

Most of Kfar Roummane's estimated 2,000 inhabitants fled within hours of the SLA declaring "full mobilization", possibly to prevent a guerrilla offensive in commemoration of "Land Day", the anniversary of a bloody confrontation with Israeli troops in 1976.

Spokesmen of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) said their forces thwarted further advances to Nabatieh, where Muslim guerrillas have a number of bases.

A United Nations official contacted by telephone in mid-morning said: "Fighting is raging in the area". Other sources said SLA gunmen blew up a number of houses

before they withdrew from the village about noon.

Reports from the south also said Israeli artillery struck the villages of Kfar Thunite and Haboush, apparently to prevent guerrilla reinforcements from reaching Kfar Roummane.

The assault coincided with a rally in west Beirut in which at least 6,000 Palestinians and Lebanese left-wingers chanted anti-Israeli slogans as they marched through the Muslim sector, where a general strike halted all activities. Rallies also took place in Sidon and in Tyre.

They were the most vigorous manifestations of public solidarity with the Palestinians in the occupied territories since December 9.

"The stone will become a Kalashnikov," was one of the defiant slogans that were chanted by crowds of youths.

● JERUSALEM: Three Palestinians were shot dead yesterday in another day of violence in the occupied West Bank as Israel's 700,000 Arab citizens marked Land Day with a general strike and a series of generally peaceful rallies (David Bernstein writes).

The latest victims were killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers in three West Bank villages - Shuyukh, near Hebron, Burka, near Nablus, and Deir Abu Mashal, near Ramallah.

Palestinian sources identified the dead as Mr Abdul Karim Halika, aged 25, Mr Khaled Hassan Salah, aged 22, and Mrs Rabir Wajaleh, whose husband and two sons

were also shot and seriously wounded.

Israel Radio reported that two Israeli soldiers had also been injured, and that one was still unconscious late yesterday afternoon after being struck on the head with a pickaxe in the clash with villagers at Deir Abu Mashal.

Press coverage of events in the occupied territories remained restricted yesterday, in line with the guidelines laid down by the army when it sealed off the West Bank and the Gaza Strip shortly after midnight on Tuesday morning.

Independent access to news was further restricted by the closure yesterday of the Palestine Press Service in East Jerusalem, which has been an important and highly reliable source of information on the uprising.

Inside the pre-1967 borders Israel's Arab citizens celebrated Land Day with only isolated instances of violence.

Hi-tech Daedalus flies on pedal power

From Mario Modiano, Heraklion, Crete

Gale-force winds and last-minute technical hitches are holding up the symbolic recreation of mythology's most celebrated jailbreak - the flight of Daedalus and Icarus from King Minos's palace in Crete.

The flight was scheduled for yesterday, but Mr Kanellos Kanellopoulos and his three fellow pilots had to content themselves with a further ground-based training session to hone their fitness.

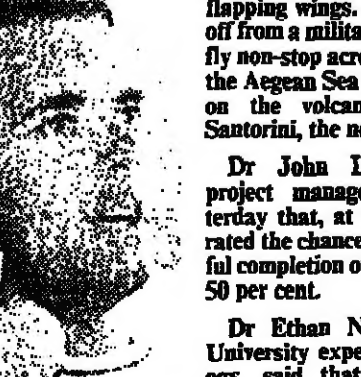
A team of 30 American scientists and technicians taking part in Project Daedalus is now on standby until the meteorological office gives the clearance for the record-breaking attempt.

The wings fashioned by Daedalus for himself and his ill-fated son were made from feathers, thread and wax. But

one of the four highly-trained bicycle racers will pedal a computer-designed aircraft, which is shaped like a glider and made of such extra-light material that, despite its 100-foot wing-span, it weighs only 70 pounds.

The delay has enabled the intrepid cyclists to keep up their intensive training and also gain a first-hand impression of the site that gave birth to the myth of Daedalus during a sightseeing tour of King Minos's labyrinthine palace at Knossos.

Mr Glenn Tremml, aged 28, the American medical student who holds the world distance record for human-powered flight, said he had been fascinated to find out that the enraged King Minos imprisoned Daedalus for devising a mechanical cow in which



Mr Kanellopoulos: Facing a seven-hour endurance test.

Queen Pasiphae could take her pleasure of a beautiful bull with whom she had fallen in love and who begat her Minotaur.

Here, where the boundary between myth and technology seems to have been swept away by strong northerly winds, the

modern Daedalus will not be flapping wings. He must take off from a military runway and fly non-stop across 74 miles of the Aegean Sea to touch down on the volcanic island of Santorini, the nearest land.

Dr John Langford, the project manager, said yesterday that, at this stage, he rated the chances of a successful completion of the project at 50 per cent.

Dr Ethan Nadel, a Yale University expert on physiology, said that if the pilot slackens his efforts the plane, which will be flying between 15 and 20 feet above the water, would crash and break up on impact.

"The effort will be equal to running two three-hour marathons back to back, and the pilot will lose more than a litre of fluid an hour," he said.

A special drink has been

devised by an American health food company to provide the salt and glucose to replace the lost fluid and energy. The flight is expected to last between four-and-a-half and seven hours, depending on the winds and the temperature.

The project's director of flight operations, Dr Steven Bussolari, who teaches in the department of aeronautics and astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where the craft was researched and designed, said the objective was primarily educational.

However, the techniques that were used to produce the craft's structures would be applicable to space flight and ordinary aircraft, he said. The physiological applications would be useful in checking human endurance, and it is understood that the drink devised for the pilots will be marketed commercially.

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Randfontein voters deliver crushing defeat to Botha and policies of reform

Far right stakes claim on power

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Leaders of South Africa's extreme-right Conservative Party, jubilant over their crushing defeat of President Botha's National Party in the whites-only Randfontein by-election, predicted yesterday that nationwide municipal elections in October would be the next stepping-stone to power. White general elections are due by early 1990.

The victorious candidate, Dr Corné Mulder, declared that nothing could halt "the new flood of white nationalism", while the party's leader, Dr Andries Treurnicht, asserted: "This victory demonstrates a dramatic rejection of the NP's reform policy. The future belongs to the CP."

For the shaken Nationalists, Mr F.W. de Klerk, the party's leader in the Transvaal, said the result was "naturally disappointing", but "temporary setbacks in by-elections would not make the Government abandon its policy of 'balanced and well-thought-out renewal and reform'."

Mr de Klerk said it was clear "there is a great deal of uncertainty among white voters which the CP is abusing. The National Party will make it its task in the immediate future to give attention to the underlying reasons for this... (The CP's) promises to white voters are hollow cries which

HOW THEY VOTED

(May '87 General Election in brackets)

	Votes	%	%
Dr Corné Mulder (CP)	8,437	(7,999)	63.5 (54.8)
Dr Boy Geldenhuys (NP)	4,726	(6,267)	35.6 (43.0)
Others; spoilt papers	120	(325)	
CP majority	3,711	1,732	

Turnout 61.3% (65.7%).

* Tuesday's election was a straight CP-NP race. In 1987 Mr J.M. de Wit of the Herstigte Nasionale Party polled 267 votes (1.8%).

we will continue to expose."

The depressed economic climate, President Botha's announcement earlier this year of a freeze on public sector wage increases, and the Government's plan to privatize state enterprises that were originally set up to provide protected employment to Afrikaner whites, have all been grist to the mill of the Conservatives and their extra-parliamentary ally, the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging.

Estimates of the Conservatives' potential are being looked at again in the light of the latest trends. The party won no more than 22 (or 13.3 per cent) of the 166 directly-elected seats in the white House of Assembly at the 1987 general election, compared with the 123 won by the Nationalists. The rest went to the liberal Progressive Federal Party and smaller parties and independent candidates to the left of the Government.

But the Conservatives won 26 per cent of the popular vote, and the sort of swing that occurred in Randfontein, where the party raised its share of the vote by nearly nine percentage points, would, if repeated nationally, dramatically increase its share of parliamentary seats. Indeed, very few government seats in the Transvaal or the Orange Free State can now be considered entirely safe.

The Transvaal is important because it has by far the biggest share of the white population and parliamentary seats (see table II). Of the 123 directly-elected seats won by the Government in the 1987 general election, 47 are in the Transvaal and 14 in the Orange Free State.

A study of the 1987 election by two Afrikaner sociologists at the University of South Africa in Pretoria suggests that, on a Randfontein swing, as many as 62 seats (45 in Transvaal, 12 in Orange Free State, four in the Cape and one in Natal) are winnable by the right wing if the smaller Herstigte Nasionale Party now drops out of contention and its supporters vote for the Conservatives.

This figure is arrived at as follows: the Conservatives won 22 seats (all in the Transvaal) in 1987. In another eight seats, the combined Conservative and Herstigte Nasionale vote was bigger

than that of the Nationalists, indicating that these seats would have fallen to the right wing had the Conservatives and Herstigte Nasionale Party not competed against each other. In a further 32 seats the combined vote of the two parties was in the 40-50 per cent range, making them possible wins on a swing of Randfontein proportions.

Even if this prediction were borne out, the Conservatives

White population and House of Assembly seats

	% white pop	Seats	%
Transvaal	53.6	78	45.8
Cape	26.7	56	33.7
Natal	12.2	20	12.1
Orange FS	6.9	14	8.4
Total	99.4	166	100.0

Note: 0.6% of white population live and work in a black tribal homeland.

would still be well short of the 84 seats needed for a bare majority in the white House of Assembly. But the possibility of a hung Parliament would appear if parties to the left of the Government put up a reasonable showing. Here, however, President Botha can take some comfort from the fact that voters on the left of the white political spectrum have tended to shift their support to the Nationalists as the right-wing threat has grown.



Dr Corné Mulder, the victorious Conservative Party candidate in Randfontein, being carried shoulder-high by supporters after his crushing by-election defeat of the National Party.

Bonn certain joint force will make Paris effective ally

From Michael Evans, Baden-Baden

Not far from Stuttgart, about 125 miles from the inner German border, the mill town of Boblingen is preparing to host a unique military experiment. Within the community of about 40,000 people will be based the headquarters of the joint Franco-German brigade.

The commanding officer has been chosen, a Frenchman with a German-sounding name, Brigadier Jean-Pierre Sengeisen. French officers in Baden-Baden, the main base area for France's troops in West Germany, are showing a great interest in joining the brigade. It is a new concept and, in their view, it will be good for their careers.

French enthusiasm for the joint brigade is music to the ears of the Germans. For the idea of joining forces on an experimental bilateral basis, outside the direct command structure of Nato yet still within the general framework of the military alliance in the central front, is seen as the first visible sign of a new French commitment towards their neighbours and the defence of Europe.

The German argument is: since France will never rejoin Nato's military structure its response to a war in Europe will remain ambiguous, even though Nato commanders confidently predict that French forces would be made available. So a commitment by France to a joint brigade, permanently based on German soil, must increase the chance of French military support for Nato in a crisis in Europe.

One senior German officer involved in the planning of the brigade, Rear-Admiral Wolfgang Brost said: "The brigade will have a specific mission. It will also be militarily significant for us here because both the French and German troops will be additional to those already available for the defence of Europe in the central front. So this is not for military show. It's not show business. It will really contribute something."

The choice of Boblingen was a compromise. The Germans would like to have persuaded the French forces to come even closer to the inner German border. But there was a danger of pushing the brigade too close to the Nato forces. "Anyway, we knew the French wouldn't agree to be right on the border," a senior West German government aide said.

Boblingen is in the rear area of the US Corps, so in wartime the Franco-German brigade would most likely come under the command of the Americans, provided the French Government approved.

The official added: "The French now realize that there is a new scenario in Europe. They can see that if they want to defend their country they can't just wait for the enemy to turn up on their border."

Different elements can explain today's development in Franco-German co-operation.

● In 1982 President Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl agreed to consult more closely on foreign and defence matters within a framework of summits held twice a year.

● In 1983 President Mitterrand made a speech to the Bundestag in Bonn in which he emphasized the need to support the European alliance, and especially the Germans, on the intermediate-range nuclear forces issue.

Franco-German defence co-operation Part 2

● In the French-German summits of 1985 and 1986 the two leaders decided that co-operation, particularly in the military sphere, should be given a new impetus and thrust.

● In 1987 Chancellor Kohl suggested the forming of a joint army brigade.

● In January this year France and Germany founded the Council on Security and Defence to strengthen the European pillar of the alliance.

The brigade, the practical consequence of the Mitterrand-Kohl "cohabitation", has received the full blessing of the Americans. "They keep going on about burden-sharing in Europe," said one German official, "and this is exactly what the brigade is all about."

But is this brigade merely symbolic? Lieutenant-General Jean-Louis Brette, a former paratrooper and now commander-in-chief of the 46,000 French troops in West Germany, had no part in the decision to form the joint brigade, but he now has the job of handling the logistics of the new unit, which will consist of separate French and German infantry regiments and a mixed support regiment and a mixed staff.

He said: "I have to find barracks and houses for these soldiers. Ce n'est pas symbolique."

But at his Baden-Baden headquarters he admitted that, as yet, he had not been told of the brigade's mission, nor who would command it if war broke out.

Concluded

No wonder Pan Am's number one.

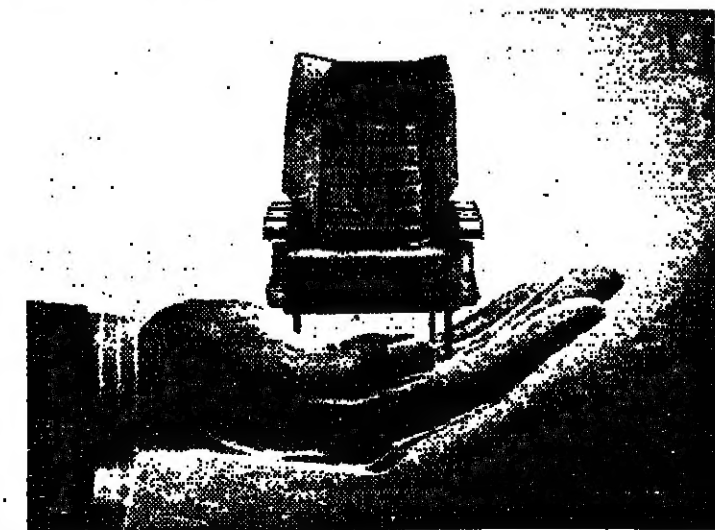
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Head and

UNITS	POINTS
1. The Beatles	599
2. The Rolling Stones	598
3. The Who	597
4. The Kinks	596
5. The Small Faces	595
6. The Yard	594
7. The Faces	593
8. The Jam	592
9. The Sex Pistols	591
10. The Clash	590
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12. The Police	588
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15. The Primitives	585
16. The Jesus and Mary Chain	584
17. The Jesus Christ Superstar	583
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19. The Who's Live Through This	581
20. The Who's Live Through This	580

Uncovering Bohemian

and police have been...
...the French Revolution and...

SPECTRUM

With the important New York primary approaching, the one Democrat who could turn the Republican tide is still undecided

To be, or not to be king

For many among Washington's political and media elite last Saturday night, it seemed that President Reagan was almost crowning a natural successor. "What will the Great Communicator be doing next?" the President joked with the white-tie crowd of celebrities. "I think," he said, "he'll stay as Governor of New York."

Mario Cuomo, the non-candidate, whose shadow looms ever larger over the chaotic campaign for the Democratic nomination, returned the compliment, speaking of his love and respect for the Republican President. For one film-maker guest at the dinner, it was like an old Western with John Wayne handing over to the new gunslinger in town.

A scene like that would have been unthinkable with another Democrat. More than any of the running candidates, Cuomo, a man whose self-doubting draws frequent comparisons with Hamlet, can stand at Reagan's level. That is only all too evident to party elders, as the talk turns once again towards the possibility of drafting in the brooding New York Governor if no acceptable candidate emerges from the pack.

It is a year since Cuomo shocked the party with his decision to stay out of the race, and he is insisting as much as ever that he has no intention of running. But the huge swings from primary to primary — Jesse Jackson trouncing the colourless Michael Dukakis in Michigan at the weekend, Dukakis trouncing Jackson in Connecticut on Tuesday — has magnified the Governor's role.

He could endorse a candidate before the all-important New York state primary on April 19, a step that he has so far refused to take. His refusal to back Dukakis

THE TIMES PROFILE

MARIO CUOMO

or anyone else has strengthened the speculation that Cuomo could be prevailed upon as the party's White Knight.

What is the quality that makes Mario Cuomo, the son of poor immigrants from Salerno, a local lawyer who only entered politics in his forties and has rarely ventured beyond his home state, so appealing to his party? Why do so many still think he is the man to seize a turn in the historic tide away from the Republicans, just as his fellow Catholic John Kennedy did in 1960? In short, the answer is that he inspires; he possesses vision, eloquence, authority, integrity and charm — the all-important "character" ingredient that no 1988 candidate combines.

Richard Nixon saw the Cuomo power when the new Governor vaulted to national attention with an electrifying keynote speech at the Democratic convention in 1984. "In the television age, the key distinction is between the candidate who can speak poetry and the one who can only speak prose. Mondale could only speak prose. Reagan can speak poetry. Cuomo is formidable because he is one of the very few politicians who can do both," Nixon said.

To his supporters, Cuomo is the only man capable of combining the old Democratic dream, the ideas that took his hero and Albany predecessor Franklin Roosevelt to the White House, with

the fiscal conservatism that is an axiom of the Eighties.

A liberal who preaches the power of the family and compassion for the needy, Cuomo has brought down taxes in his state — the nation's second largest — at the same time as beefing up the overcrowded prison system.

With his 6ft frame, athlete's agility and Neapolitan grin, Cuomo bounds into rooms and winds up crowds, mixing warmth and wit, sarcasm and passion, all with the orator's skill that, Jackson aside, is so painfully absent from the current crop of candidates. So impressive are Cuomo's political credentials that when he abdicated from the running last year, many assumed he harboured some terrible secret.

Speculation focused on his roots as a child of an Italian grocer in the lower-class borough of Queens and his rise to prominence as a Brooklyn and Queens lawyer after he was rejected by upmarket Manhattan firms. Rumours had long circulated about a Mafia skeleton in the Cuomo closet, much to the fury of the Governor. Late last year, the gossip was effectively killed by a long New York magazine investigation that found the rumours groundless, blaming opponents for circulating them.

For all his assets, Cuomo's route to power has been hampered by the introspective nature that leads his friends and enemies alike to define him as a paradox. "He seems happier in adversity than in triumph," says Jack Newfield, a journalist friend. "He seems more at peace writing in his diary and thinking alone than with the cheers of the crowd or with the perquisites of power." Cuomo's diary, which he writes in a loose-



leaf notebook at 5am every day, must be one of the most public intimate journals of the age. He has so far published two volumes. He muses about his readings or reflects on the thinking of heroes such as Teilhard de Chardin or Thomas More. Often, Cuomo somberly questions his own achievements. "Has anything ever been so useless as the momentary acclaim of a world that does not know you, no matter how public," he notes in one entry.

Through the Cuomo diaries emerges the sensitivity that his enemies call an excessively thin skin and blame for a vindictive streak. Eighteen months ago, he earned himself a spate of bad Press with flashes of anger against reporters who questioned his Italian connections. These are the traits that would cause trouble in a national arena.

The political experts also point to other flaws that would emerge in a Cuomo candidacy, should he be subjected to the trial of a campaign. First among these is his insularity. The Governor has only over the past year or so begun travelling and talking more than occasionally outside New York.

BIOGRAPHY

1932: Born in Queens, New York. Studied Law at St John's University. Married, five children.
1974: Ran in primary (and lost) as Democratic candidate for state lieutenant-governor. Appointed Secretary of State to New York Governor Hugh Carey.
1977: Ran for Mayor of New York, losing primary to Edward Koch.
1978: Elected Lieutenant-Governor to Carey.
1982: Elected Governor of New York state.
1986: Re-elected by record margin.

an untarnished success. The most common criticism is that he fails to delegate and leans too heavily on his kitchen Cabinet, particularly on his son Andrew, a 29-year-old Manhattan lawyer who managed his 1984 campaign and serves as his political guru.

Cuomo is hailed for his moral leadership on issues such as the Aids epidemic, but he is also increasingly being held to account for a gap between the expectations raised by his eloquence and his achievements. He has failed, the critics say, to innovate in areas such as housing. Even his successes in balancing the state budget and cutting taxes are often attributed to the boom in the national economy rather than his administrative skill.

On the subject of Cuomo's future, opinions are confused. Some close friends say he has no real desire to be President. Newfield says he has the intelligent man's distaste for the deceptions of politics although he has mastered the art. But others, including Mayor Edward Koch, a former rival and uneasy ally, say they see his progress to the White House as inevitable.

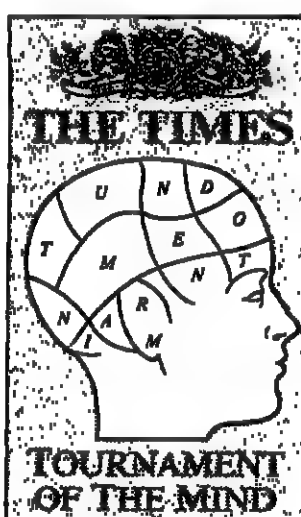
In a spate of inconclusive utterances over the past week, Cuomo has said the 1988 nominee must come from the existing field of candidates and the choice must be sealed before the July convention in order to avoid a bloodbath. In the meantime, the Governor is "now accelerating the process of trying to determine how best to be useful to the Democratic party".

Charles Bremner

Head and shoulders above the rest

1,000 POINTS

Philip Ackroyd, Carley Road, Manor Park, London; Pauline Bailey, Moorlands Croft, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands; C.J. Bavin, Finchcroft, New Ash Green, Kent; K.F. Bevan, West Lees Road, Barnford, Sharncliffe; V.E. Black, Devonshire Road, Sherwood, Nottingham; C.H. Bramwell, Bellingham, Hexham, Northumberland; James R. Buckley, Oak Crescent, Ashbourne, Derbyshire; M.J. Canfield, Whitely Croft Road, Otley, West Yorkshire; Maria Chadwick, Sandes Place Drive, Dorking, Surrey; Alison Chertton, Watlington Road, Benson, Oxfordshire; Alan Cooke, Bishopsmead, Laverstock, Salisbury, Wiltshire; Evin Crowley-Sweet, Corle Avenue, Harrow, Middlesex; Simon Davies, Charnidge Lane, Chesham, Buckinghamshire; Keith Farmer, Northmore Way, Wareham, Dorset; G.S. Fraser, Cleverton Drive, Little Aston, Sutton Coldfield; David Gascoigne, Abington Terrace, Didcot, Oxfordshire; Malcolm Gilling, Tension Road, Cambridge; J.F. Grimshaw, Viewfield Road, Wandsworth, London; M.J. Kennedy, Feltham Hill Road, Ashford, Middlesex; Anthea Lintott, Thicket Road, Peckham, London; S. Love, Stoborough Green, Wareham, Dorset; D.S. Lucas, Main Road, Washington, Lincoln; I. Lyczkowska, Horton Hill, Epsom, Surrey; A.N. MacDougall, Scott Hall Crescent, Leeds; Alastair McMillan, Blinville Street, Gosport, Hampshire; Strathclyde, Robert A. May, Manor Road, High Beach, Loughlin, Essex; A. Patel, Harwood Drive, Waterhouse, Sheffield; R. Snodice, Palace Road, Tulse Hill, London; E.H. Steiner, Thornton Lodge, Stonor, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire; Robert E. Steiner, Ashley Road, Chesham, Bucks; J.A. Tuplin, Haskthorn Road, Welton, Lincolnshire; P.A. Warren, Mawson Road, Cambridge.



The Tournament of the Mind was an unqualified success, attracting 31,000 entries. The Times today announces the names of the 120 finalists who will compete in the final stages of the tournament, starting on April 11

The Times today publishes the list of individual finalists from the 31,000 readers who entered The Tournament of the Mind; anyone who scored at least 992 out of a possible 1,000 points. These finalists will play in the last stages of the tournament, to be published in The Times, where all readers can enjoy the Mensa questions, over six days beginning Monday, April 11. All finalists will receive a certificate.

Individual finalists will be sent preprinted answer forms with a prepaid envelope which will have to be returned by Friday, April 22.

The judges' decision in selecting the contestants is final and no correspondence or telephone queries can be considered.

Details of the schools' final and finalists will appear in The Times on Tuesday, April 5.

999 POINTS
Jayne Dawid, Miles Hill View, Leeds.

998 POINTS
Christopher J. Megahay, Gilpin Way, White Court, Ripon, North Yorkshire; M.N. Washburn, Ripon Street, Lincoln.

997 POINTS
Chris Jenkins, Whittington Lane, Lincolnshire; S. Spangler, Middle Road, Swinscoe.

996 POINTS
R. Allen, Hollingbury Park Avenue, Brighton; G.S. Atkinson, Rugby Road, Dunchurch, Rugby; D. Bagshaw, Dunbar Crescent, Southport, Merseyside; Alan Ball, College Road, Upper Beeding, East Sussex; R.M. Barr, Sopers Farm, Hawkingest, Kent; M.A. Birch, Redgate, Forbury, Merseyside; Erik Dawid, Allerton

Grove, Moorstown, Leeds; R.H. Francis, Orchard Close, Epsom Road, Guildford, Surrey; J.M. Gilchrist, Chapel Lane, Fowlmire, Royston, Hertfordshire; B.R. Golding, Blackhouse Hill, Hythe, Kent; M. Greenberg, Meredith Close, Pinner, Middlesex; G.N. Guinness, Kings Road, Richmond, Surrey; Peter G. Harding, The Drove, Sleaford, Lincolnshire; Peter Haydon, Ebbosham Drive, Eaton, Norfolk; A.P. Hetherington, Dunrobin Road, Eitham, London; Jeremy Humphries, Penmanor, Finsbury, London; Alan Johns, Prospect Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire; W.R. Kissack, Woodland Rise, Statham, Bedfordshire; Don McGregor, Failand Chase, Oxshott Lane, Failand, Bristol; D.W. McNeill, Priory Court, Harlow, Essex; James Edward Macy, Underwood, Bracknell, Berkshire; Peter E. Macey, Wolferton Road, Nottingham; Jeremy Roussak, Park

Road, Radlett, Hertfordshire; D. Shavick, Abbey View, Mill Hill, London; G.H. Willett, Frogna Gardens, Hampstead, London.

995 POINTS
John Bloxham, Meadowbank Avenue, Sheffield; Scott G. Gardner, Manor Street, Accrington, Lancashire; Gillian M. Gilbert, Reynolds Road, New Malden, Surrey; B.B. Lloyd, High Wall, Putney, London; B.P. Morris, Beckenham Grove, Shortlands, Bromley, Kent; Keith G. Simpson, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, Surrey.

994 POINTS
S.R. Podbury, Lordwood View, Leaden Roding, Dunmow, Essex.

993 POINTS
E.K. Frank, Chiswick High Road, Chiswick, London; Denis Jones, Turberville Place, Canton, Cardiff; David Nurse, The Deerings, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Way, Worthing, Sussex; David Elsmore, Coronation Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex; P.A. Elwood, Broadspire Road, Abbot Langley, Hertfordshire; Margaret Evans, Stocks Bank Road, Meridale, West Yorkshire; Penelope Ann Ford, Plantation Avenue, Shadwell, Leeds; Eddie Foster, Ditton Road, Langley, Berkshire; Ian Franklin, Walnut Close, Uxbridge, Devon; Wilshire; R.E. Gardner, Beshford Way, Worth, Crawley, West Sussex; Alan Gerrard, Dark Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire; Arthur Hall, Ilex Way, Goring-by-Sea, East Sussex; Rod B. Hargreaves, Devo Close, Poynton, Stockport; Christine George Hawkins, Keenel Place, St Neots, Cambridgeshire; Steve Hawthorn, Knightbridge Walk, Billerica, Essex; P. Hinchey, Garden Close, Northolt, Middlesex; Sandra Hyde, Brynstone Close, Guildford, Surrey; Maryn Jacobs, Childwell Gardens, The Clusters, St John's Road, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex; Neil Mahle, Pine Walk, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire; S. Mahle, Chantry Hurst, Epsom, Surrey; S.J. May, Hospital Close, Leicester; David R. Parry, Elwy Road, Rhosneig, Denbigh, North Wales; Bridge Cottage, Newton of Piddians, Dunning, Perthshire; N.J. Saunders, Glee House, Melbourn, Royston, Hertfordshire; S. Smith, Orchard Park Estate, Hull; R.G. Stanley, Rathmore Close, Cambridge; Greg Steady, Starmore Terrace, Beckenham, Kent; Victor Stewart, 220 East 5th Street, New York, USA; Les Teare, Fairbourne Avenue, Alderley, Cheshire; M.J. Thompson, Lord Road, Northwich, Cheshire; S.J. White, Newton Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire; W.M. Winstall, Southern Road, Gr Baddow, Chesham, Essex; D.M. Yates, Martingales Close, Ham, Richmond, Surrey.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1528

ACROSS
1 Forearm flexor (6)
4 Dash (6)
9 Brassica (7)
10 Garlic mayonnaise (5)
11 Farm outbuilding (4)
12 Giving gratuity (7)
14 Commerce executive (11)
18 Illicit trade (7)
19 Hamburg river (4)
22 Encrusted (5)
24 Square-cut cigar (7)
25 Burden (6)
26 KC conscience interrogation (6)

DOWN
1 Light French beer (4)
2 Hooded snake (5)
3 Civil action bringer (9)
5 School body (1,1,1)
6 Volcano islands centre (3,4)
7 Battle casualty sorting (6)
8 Hen-shaped wind vane (11)
11 Shilling (3)
13 Bullet duos (3,2,4)
15 Not invited (7)
16 Phasmatid flies (6)
17 Ordered flies (6)
20 Prime (5)
21 Anusoid (4)
23 Pulse (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1527
ACROSS: 1 Calipso 5 Crib 9 Extinct 10 India 11 Bared 20 Tame 13 Mores 15 Clone 16 Stain 18 Fight 20 Ad hoc 21 Evolving 23 Tote 24 Strained
DOWN: 1 Credit 2 Lohrino 3 ITN 4 Peter the Great 6 Rude 7 Naggad 19 Chai 22 Ova

Uncovering a holy Bohemian mystery

Czech police have unearthed a medieval Belgian sculptural masterpiece, in an operation worthy of Maigret. Buried by its owner under his private chapel 43 years ago, it is a priceless 13th-century shrine of St Maurus, fashioned in copper gilt, it is two metres long and richly festooned with hundreds of gemstones, enamelled plaques, and sculpture. Most impressive of all are the figures of the Apostles, St Maurus, and of Christ.

After some coverage in the Czechoslovak Press when it was found in November 1986, the shrine has disappeared into the storerooms of the Czech national museums. Its existence, and the story surrounding it, will be detailed in an article by Robert Didier, an expert on shrines, in the April issue of Apollo magazine.

"It's like finding a lost sculpture by Donatello," says the editor of Apollo, Anna Somers-Cocks. "Most of the French shrines were destroyed in the French Revolution, and

artfile



SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

A weekly look at the art world

there is not a single one left in England."

She first heard about the shrine of St Maurus four years ago from Christian Beaufort, head of the armoury museum in Vienna. "He said to me: 'It is too sad. Our family used to own this object, but my father buried it somewhere on the estate when he saw the way the war was going.' It upset Dr

Beaufort to think of the thing mouldering away."

The shrine was originally created to contain the torso of the martyred St Maurus, who was beheaded. It was commissioned by the monks at the abbey at Florennes, near Namur in Belgium. Having survived pillaging revolutions in 1794, it passed to another abbey in Florennes, and was sold by them to Duc Charles-Alfred-August de Beaufort-Spontin, a local aristocrat, in 1838 for 2,500 francs. It was displayed at the Great Exhibition in Brussels, in 1888.

However, 10 years after that, Charles-Alfred had a furious row with the mayor of Florennes, and in his rage, moved to another of his family seats, the castle of Petshau in Bohemia, taking the shrine with him.

There it remained in the family chapel until the Second World War, when Charles-Alfred's son, Friedrich, became apprehensive about the advance of the Russians. He



Buried, found, hidden: the 13th-century shrine of St Maurus

buried the shrine together with some 100 bottles of cognac and fled westwards, keeping his secret to himself.

Two years ago the Czech authorities heard a rumour that some treasure was buried, most probably in a castle in north-western Bohemia. The authorities scoured lists of missing art objects, castles and likely families, and eventually discovered the shrine in November 1986, damp and dirty, its copper gilt corroded, but miraculously uncrushed.

But why is Czechoslovakia keeping the find under wraps? Dagmar Hejzlova, a curator in Prague, at first denied that she

knew anything about the shrine when I spoke to her last week. When the Apollo article was mentioned, however, she then said: "It is here in the museum, and needs to be restored, but no work has started on it yet."

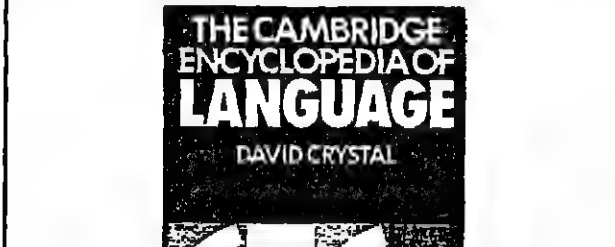
Somers-Cocks thinks the problem may be that there is a row between the two state museums in Prague, with both claiming a right to it.

Perhaps the Czech authorities are embarrassed about sequestering such an important Belgian item. Speaking from Vienna last week, Dr Beaufort said: "They should give it back to Belgium. It was 600 years in that country before coming to Czechoslovakia." But Belgium does not have a legal claim to the shrine: after suing Charles-Alfred for exporting it in 1898, they then accepted compensation of 500,000 Belgian francs from the duke in 1900.

And what about a claim by the Beaufort family? As the Apollo article points out, in 1975 Czechoslovakia signed a treaty with the Austrian government, agreeing to compensate those who made claims within a certain period of time. The period has now elapsed. So, after undertaking such extreme measures to protect their property, the Beauforts have ultimately lost out. They will not see the cognac again, either.

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Terence Moore, TLS February 12 1988

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TLS
THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

TIMES DIARY

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

In the confident tones of a knight who owned the only lance, we ringingly declared: "This tournament will be fought with only one weapon - the mind."

How soon we were to learn that any weapon can turn in the hand. Very simply, we had underestimated our readership. Not its wisdom and erudition, but its immunity to the sly path of the age.

The Tournament Of The Mind might, it was first thought, attract 5,000, maybe 6,000 entries at most. The Minds at Mensa, our willing collaborators, put the ceiling at twice that. In fact a total of 31,272 followed the trail to the 20th day, cutting and keeping the 6,000 entry coupons, above which Times heads are just beginning to show. Given the one-in-ten persistence ratio that guides coupon industry gurus, this suggests that 300,000 readers at least had been muttering over our anagrams and equations.

The question of reference books was thorny from the start. These General Knowledge questions, a reader asked, are we allowed to consult books? Certainly not, we snapped. Yet the odd feeling was to remain that some puzzlers never did allow themselves the option of what they clearly considered cheating; even after we published a list of the books we were using.

Readers, we thought, might find out much about themselves. But not as much as we were to learn: that, for example, we have constant readers all across Australasia and South America, and in a school in Budapest, the Elite Radnoti Gimnazium, whose entry winged in like some rare bird: no less welcome because we did not understand every note of its song.

We discovered, too, some of our readers to be remarkably literal in their thought-patterns. One question began "You have in your pocket so many coins..." The answer was 364. A Mensa staff member was still shrugging off his oversight when the telephone rang. "Look here... you the deuce has pockets for 364 coins...?"

Others proved terribly dogged, if now and then a shade unworried. Another question involved the number of rectangles used to make various shapes within a five-by-five square; such a dreary item, it took ages to count them one by one, said a complainer. But you don't count them, you merely use a simple permutation you would use in, for example, making an entry for the pools, said a Mind at Mensa: "The pools? Young man, what has water to do with this?"

BARRY FANTONI



"Waiting six months for your car? Must be fog at Gatwick."

We discovered a perhaps regrettable streak of silliness in some. Not just the chap who gave Mickey Mouse as the answer to a question about the Thorn Birds. Those who gave up trying to reach the Performing Rights Society for help about the authorship of *Music for Supermarkets* seemed then to go berserk, answering like "Ivor Trolley", "Mr T. Esco" smacked of desperation. But we did raise a toast to the author of "Chopin-List".

And, finally, we discovered a little about some of our staff: crime reporters taking a misrouted telephone call engaged in esoteric discussion about a Greek Sun God (yes, Helios; though we will also accept Apollo) and were found not wanting. For speed of thought our in-house winner, however, was the writer who took a call from a reader enraged at the answer that King Wenceslaus was murdered by his brother Boleslaw. "Not according to my book," roared the man. "It says here he was killed by a sword stroke." So he was, said our chap. "A sword stroke." For him a bright future is predicted. Preferably on another newspaper.

It was to be proved a pity that in a land of so many Minds, the mindless still play their part. A number of entries arrived damaged because vandals had fired them in post-boxes. Others were delayed and arrived with nice notes of apology from the Post Office that could not, alas, prevent their being disqualified. So those not listed among the 30 all-correct answers, or the 100-plus so near they are to be included in the final, have a ready excuse for jeering spouses.

One happy spin-off of the Tournament might soon be the opportunity to demolish the boasting of Texan cousins. At this moment the USA has, with 55,000, the world's largest membership of an organization confined to those of high IQ: in vain have British Mensa card-holders (they total 22,000) protested that proportional to population, more brains catch trains to Waterloo than Washington.

Since the Tournament started, Times readers, encouraged perhaps by the evidence that they can hold their albeit aching heads high among the brightest, have been inquiring about membership at the rate of around 3,000 a day. "At this rate," said a Mensa spokesman, "We will catch them up in... let's see... carry two... no post on Sundays... well, anyway quite soon." I don't think he wanted to put down the phone to count on both hands.

Anyhow, if you are filled with pride and patriotism, having kept up with the pace, in this quite lovely month for thinking people, do please contact Mensa at Freepost, Wolverhampton, WV2 1BR. Oh what a pleasure it is not having to read that address again... slowly!

Brian James

After three years of some of the most intensive pressure ever mounted on a safety body, the Civil Aviation Authority is considering making smoke hoods mandatory in all British passenger aircraft.

Good news, travellers might think as they set out for airports this Easter, for ever since the 1985 British Airways disaster at Manchester, in which 55 people died in a horrifying fire, there has been a chorus of demands for the immediate introduction of smoke hoods. It is claimed that they would not only have saved many lives in that accident but will save many more in the future.

So far the CAA has resisted the pressure for immediate action while it carries out detailed research into the real value of smoke hoods. As a result it has been accused of dragging its feet and even of being uncaring. But within a few weeks the authority is to publish a new specification for smoke hoods which the manufacturers are confident they can fulfil.

Once that standard has been laid down it is probably only a

Harvey Elliott explains the drawbacks of aircraft smoke hoods

For safety read danger

matter of time before airlines are forced to fit smoke hoods into the back of every seat. Yet that decision could prove a mistake. Far from saving lives it could actually endanger them.

At first sight it seems logical to welcome any measure which would prevent death from inhaling smoke and toxic fumes in an aircraft fire. Controlled tests have shown that they can work. In a real aircraft fire, however, there would be the panic that no test can possibly simulate. If an announcement was made to don smoke hoods would the grand-mother, perhaps taking her young granddaughter to see her parents, know what to do in those few vital moments? Whose smoke hood would she fit first - her own or the child's? The probability is that she would be in a state of confusion and

indecision standing, perhaps, in the aisle while she tried to do both things at once and blocking the exit for others who were trying to escape.

No two people are the same, and a girl with masses of long hair falling over her shoulders may need a different shaped hood from a clean-shaven man.

These are just two of dozens of questions which the CAA is anxiously studying and which many of those pressing for smoke hoods to be made mandatory still gloss over.

Between 1966 and 1985 there were 74 aircraft accidents in the Western world in which a total of 2,479 passengers died because of fire. Experts from Britain, the US, Canada and France analysed these and concluded that about 7 per cent could have been saved if smoke hoods which met every

possible criterion for easy use and effectiveness had been installed. Of that 7 per cent it is estimated that 19 were passengers on British aircraft.

Before any flight today cabin crew still go through the routine of showing passengers the drill for wearing a life-jacket. Yet there has hardly ever been a case where a life-jacket has been used to save a life. The safety procedure laid down years ago when flying was far more dangerous than it is today are carried out only because the rules say they should be, not because they will be of much use.

The main effect is to make those passengers who are already nervous even more terrified of flying. Now another demonstration would be given: how to put on a smoke hood.

have been taped to the backs of seats. In reality they would have to be fitted into those seat backs, requiring major modification. Each hood will cost up to £100, and with 60,000 airline seats available on the British register this means an initial outlay of £6 million for the hoods alone, plus at least the same again for the seat modifications.

Smoke hoods can, undoubtedly, be useful, especially in fires in the home where many people die in their beds from fumes from blazing furniture. What better "souvenir" to take home than a £100 smoke hood? Airlines might well find that after almost every flight dozens of new hoods would have to be fitted to replace those which had been pilfered.

Not surprisingly the manufacturers who can meet any stan-

dards laid down by the CAA in the future are in favour of the compulsory use of the hoods. When the CAA asked for comments about their possible introduction 15 of 18 breathing equipment manufacturers and individuals representing manufacturers said they would support such a move. Two out of three government departments and research establishments, however, were against them.

Clearly anything which can be done to prevent deaths from fires must be applauded. But are smoke hoods really the way?

Would it not be more sensible to apply even more stringent controls to the flammability of seats and plastic mouldings which would prevent the fire from getting hold in the first place?

This, together with new water sprinkling systems which would dampen down any fire and improved procedures for evacuating passengers, would be a more effective approach.

Smoke hoods are not the clear cut, simple answer their proponents would have us believe. And they could cause more problems than they solve.

Bernard Levin

A fruitful hour upon the stage

Sir Peter Hall is shortly to relinquish his post as Director of the National Theatre, after 15 years. Those years have seen a due proportion of mistakes, failures, even disasters (physicians of the utmost fame have been unable to cure my habit of screaming "Jean Seberg! Jean Seberg!" in my sleep, but none but an idiot could deny that, wars and all, those years have spread before the capital city a banquet of theatrical triumph fit for the gods to feast on, an almost endlessly varied catalogue of classics refurbished, revivals carefully tended, new work encouraged and promoted, of acting and production at the highest level, those art can reach, of experiment, risk and constant development in every area of the National's work. And the motor that kept the thing alive and exciting, fresh and rooted, was Hall himself.

Perhaps it is true, as some say, that he is a handy man with the poisoned ring, that he has in his time raised other people's eyebrows as well as his own, that he is the master not of seven but of seventy-seven types of ambiguity; be it so, yet when the bodies have been removed, there he has always been, dodging the icebergs to bring his ship safe to harbour, having tended the wheel himself throughout the night. When you consider some of the dreadful riff-raff who set knightships - Tory MPs whose sole activity has been selling themselves to bucket-shops in need of a name on their writing-paper useful for the next scam, industrialists who have been drunk since the early Sixties, landed gentry single-mindedly devoted to fornicating with one another's wives - it must have come as a breath of fresh spring air to the Queen when she tapped Peter on the shoulder. (I say - does the monarch actually still do that, or is it now just a shake-hand and a smile?)

Recently he has taken to reeling, writhing and fainting in coils, ancient what he sees as the criminal restriction of the NT's grant to a pitifully inadequate sum, and what everybody outside the subsidised house sees as a 'stupidously lavish quantity of taxpayers' money inexcusably

wasted on a lot of long-haired poofers. He went too far even for my patience when, the other day, he gave an interview to the *Financial Times* in which he said "There's a feeling now in the subsidised sector... that we are simply not wanted."

Hang on to that bit of allude while I execute another dithyramb; I assure you that it's all going to make sense eventually. Peter Hall would be the first to agree - well, let's say the second - that the glory has been shared, through the NT's years, by the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Indeed, he is very unlikely to forget it, because when the RSC set up their London home at the Aldwych, in 1960, he was the head of it, and remained in the post for a good many more years. But then came Trevor Nunn (and eventually the Barbican), and these two great companies have ever since divided the work, the spoils, the honours and the everlasting gratitude of millions who love good theatre. They have often been like buckets in a well, one riding high and the other down in the darkness, but eventually the buckets have changed places, and anyway, despite anything Archimedes might say, they have very often both been at the top of the well simultaneously. It is impossible to measure the artistic impoverishment that London would have suffered if these mighty enterprises had not existed.

Now we approach the sense I promised you. For many years, I have had the honour to sit on the jury of the *Evening Standard* Drama Awards, a most enjoyable and stimulating service, marred only by the appalling behaviour of my five fellow-jurors in frequently disagreeing with my choices, and even, in some instances, overriding them and giving an award to the wrong person. From time to time, as the theatrical year wears on, I draw up a list of plays running which I must see in the course of my duty to the *Standard* and its prizes, and tick off the items as I get round to seeing them. Regular London theatre-goers, having read my introduction, will guess what is



now coming; others may be more astonished than they have been for a very long time.

I made the current list a few weeks ago. It had 19 plays on it; 16 of them were to be found either at the National Theatre or at the Royal Shakespeare Company.

A few qualifications are needed. I had taken a snapshot, not a film; that was only the situation at one particular moment. Furthermore, the commercial area when I took my picture included many plays I had already seen, some of them long runners which had qualified for a prize, and perhaps got one, several judging-years before. Then again, a certain amount of sophistication comes into play: the new Francis Durbridge thriller, say, entertaining and justly patronized though it may be, is unlikely to be a contender for the best play of the year.

Moreover, revivals don't count; the return of *South Pacific* might make me count my grey hairs, but it cannot qualify as the Best Musical. And finally, I was only listing mainstream theatre; I have a separate system for the fringe.

Nevertheless, when all the exceptions have been considered, that balance of 16 to three is quite extraordinary; though I must stress that it is only extraordinary in what it implies about our theatre; it is not in the least unusual for a similar ratio shows up every time I have finished the current list and start a new one. I know of no city in the world with both a commercial and a publicly supported theatrical sector which displays a comparable scene. (I am amazed to recall that decades ago I felt it was essential for me to spend a week in Paris every year to see the new plays, though now, when

I am there for other reasons and glance through the offerings, there is never anything to tempt me to postpone my dinner. As for New York...)

When the NT and the RSC (the latter in its London operation) were getting into their stride, some troubled voices were heard, arguing that the suction power of such tremendous centres would drain the life-blood from the commercial sector, because there simply wouldn't be enough talent - talent in acting, directing, designing - to go round.

Well, that has largely proved true: the two companies have eight playhouses between them (they had nine until the RSC relinquished their temporary hold on the Mermaid), and at any given moment there are anything up to half a dozen West End theatres playing host to productions from the NT or

RSC, which have proved so popular that they have been taken out of the repertoire and set for a straight run. One of the effects of this admirable burgeoning of theatrical enterprise is that the tail-enders in both teams have been dangerously weak. I have to say that there have been a good many performances which had no place on such august stages, and a few which should really not have been on a professional stage at all.

But another, less obvious, effect is that companies assembled ad hoc now find it difficult to match, especially in Shakespeare and other classics, the work of two such ensembles used to playing together; Melpomene forbid that either company should acquire a uniform style, like the *Comédie Française*, but the ease and power generated by a group of actors who have worked together for several seasons is unmistakable, and virtually unmatchable elsewhere.

And here comes Peter Hall to say that in the subsidised sector there is a feeling that they are not wanted. You might as well say that Stonehenge is not wanted, or Tintern Abbey, or the Sutton Hoo treasure, or the Lindisfarne Gospels. No doubt there will be further pressure on the two national houses to seek greater private funding, under the spur of lesser increases from the public kind, and no doubt there will be even more poignant outcries as a result, but if anybody has a right to complain it is the commercial sector, seeing its supply of raw materials drying up.

There is a sense in which the NT and the RSC are the London theatre, and not just because of that 16-3 ratio. They set standards for others, here and abroad; standards in innovation, in repertoire, in integrity, in care, thoroughness and excellence. They are not just wanted; they are indispensable. So is Peter Hall, and so is Terry Hands of the RSC, and on that note perhaps all three of us might shut up. Come to think of it, Mr Hands hasn't said a word on the subject, so he doesn't have to.

Commentary • RONALD BUTT

Runcie's fallibility

The Archbishop of Canterbury had probably not given previous thought to the words he used on *Panorama* when asked whether there were policies on which the church might challenge the state. That, however, only gave his reply the more significance. What springs to our minds is usually what really preoccupies us. What sprang to Dr Runcie's mind was a concern with a certain sort of political issue which is now a reflex action in what is called "the church."

I write this word in inverted commas because, in this context, I do not know what it means. When a scatter of bishops pontificates ad hoc on lay politics, do they constitute the church? In what sense do committees which sit under Anglican auspices to deliberate on social topics, and which may include non-members as well as members of the Anglican communion, speak for the church? Do their reports become a guiding light once the General Synod decides to adopt or take note of them? Or is it the Synod's formal resolutions on such concrete questions as marriage or nuclear war that are really "the voice of the church?"

The last category might seem to represent the most likely candidate for the role. Yet the Synod could not possibly perform that function in the kind of issues suggested by Dr Runcie. The church, he said, "might have a moral duty to oppose some of the immigration policies and policies on South Africa." It might "have a duty to question the kind of use of the taxation system to reward success rather than to meet social needs which are urgent and crying."

He then added the curious

qualification that he didn't say this "over a particular policy at the moment," and that "each policy would have to be judged on its merits." Yet what meaning could his words about taxation possibly carry except as a comment on the particular argument about this year's Budget changes? His subsequent words about the "casualties of success" made that very clear.

When he was asked whether the church had been "a victim of Thatcherism?" he said he "wouldn't put it that way" but thought that it had been "a victim of the excessive preoccupation with prosperity and success." I would say myself that it was rather the victim of its own preoccupation with short-term political issues and with its desperate anxiety to come to terms with non-Christian society, even at the expense of the ancient teaching that the best way to a better society is for each individual to behave better according to clear Christian rules. The contrast between the past and the naive obsession of some of the present clergy with politics is as stark as that between the dignity of the old liturgy and the showmen's antics with which too many Anglican clergy try to win congregations.

What is the church? The Anglicans have a problem. Their church does not have a central teaching authority (or *magisterium*) as the Catholics do through the papacy. It would not be possible for the Catholic church to discard the teaching of 2,000 years on faith and morals, as parts of the Anglican church gaily do. Nor could the most politicized Roman priests properly claim the authority of

"the church" for their politics. Anglicans, however, can luxuriate in vague political challenge from "the church" without defining what the church is. If the bishops' general anti-Thatcher consensus is the voice of the church it should formally declare its meaning more precisely.

Though "the church" (through the voices of improvising bishops) can launch generalized attacks on the ethos of the Budget, the poll tax and policy on South African sanctions, there is no way in which it can pass a considered judgement on such matters except by some specific resolutions passed by the Synod - which is absurd.

Churchmen have been involved in politics as ministers to kings throughout history. But they did not pretend to be acting for the church when they were servants of the state. Nor did they change their spiritual teaching on individual conduct for secular convenience. Dr Runcie observed that it took time and patience to "find solutions which are generally acceptable in the life of the church." He presumably meant that people in the church are not easily satisfied with the proffered compromises with fashionable morality.

The church has the guidance of 2,000 years to tell it what it should say about personal morality, including a moral obligation in respect of poverty. But there is no teaching qualifying it to make proposals on the social consequences of a particular tax, the immigration laws or even the question whether race relations in South Africa would be made better or worse by sanctions. Such judgements are political, technical, and fallible.

SCIENCE REPORT

Memory drain

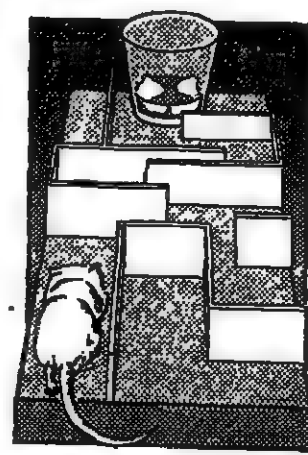
Loss of memory caused by excessive alcohol consumption results from damage to the brain's nerve cells, but not to all of them equally. A study published in today's *Nature* suggests that memory loss is associated with damage to a class of nerve cells that signal to one another through the action of the acetylcholine neurotransmitter.

Jeffrey Gray and his team at the Institute of Psychiatry in London carried out an experiment with rats, in which they used transplants of neural tissue to reverse memory defects caused by excessive alcohol consumption.

It will be a long time before it is known whether the work has medical application, but knowledge of the types of nerve cells involved in alcohol-induced memory damage will certainly provide a vital lead to looking for effective drug therapies.

In the search to understand the effects of alcohol, the rat has proved a good model. Rats become addicted to alcohol, and even choose it to water if they are under stress. Like humans, if they drink heavily their memory is impaired. At the extreme, the rodent equivalent of alcoholic Korsakoff's syndrome develops and the rat's memory defects become irreversible.

Rats in this advanced stage of mental decay find it difficult to learn their way through simple mazes, even after a month free of alcohol. They are particularly bad at finding their way around remembering



Paul Bryant

the general position of objects relative to them, only a little better at remembering places that are marked with a specific cue - a bright colour, for example.

To try to find out how alcohol damages the brain, Dr Gray and his team attempted to reverse the severe and persistent memory defects of rats which had been drinking high levels of ethanol for six months.

To do this, they transplanted brain cells, cultured in suspension, into the brains of the memory-defective rats. After the rats had recovered from the operation, the team checked their ability to learn their way through a maze with that of rats which had never drunk alcohol.

The result was that transplanted nerve cells of the type that contain acetylcholine led to a gradual and almost com-

plete recovery of memory. Transplanting other types of nerve cell had no effect, suggesting that it was damage to this one type of cell that caused the memory defects.

That a simple transplant of brain tissue should restore brain function is very surprising. The brain is thought to function by virtue of the specific patterns in which its million million nerve cells are connected. Although it is easy to see that a skin graft can grow and replace a piece of damaged skin, it is hard to see how transplanting brain cells can help restore the functions of something as delicately wired as the brain.

Most likely, the transplanted tissue has a diffuse effect, helping to restore the tone and coordinated activity of remaining undamaged brain tissue. But how it does so sets a new puzzle.

Other brain tissue transplant experiments have also succeeded in raising some hope of reversing the impairment of learning in aged animals and others in suppressing epileptic seizures caused by brain damage. These results have led some to speculate that brain tissue transplants might have a therapeutic effect in humans, helping to reverse the effects of Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease.

But so far there is no convincing evidence that brain tissue transplants would have any medical value.

ALUN ANDERSON

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1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

MR KINNOCK STRUGGLES

Mr John Prescott has returned, after a brief period of apparent loyalty, as a candidate for Labour deputy leader. The left-wing Campaign Group of Labour MPs has lost various members because they are against anyone being a candidate for anything in this particular year. Labour turmoil again, then.

The traditional reason why party establishments hate such things is that they are assumed to make it difficult to win the next general election. But winning general elections may not be what the Labour Party of the future will be about.

One of Mr Benn's complaints against Mr Kinnock is that he has failed to support strikes by miners, nurses and others who — as current Labour movement jargon has it — are "in struggle". And this week various hitherto moderate Scottish Labour MPs advised Scots to send back the registration forms for the community charge, the "poll tax".

There is a link between Mr Benn and these Scottish MPs — even though most of them will not vote for him in the autumn's leadership election. Neither is yet a majority in the Labour Party. But they could jointly represent the party's future. It could be, especially if Labour is badly beaten at a general election yet again, that the party will cease to realize its aims by trying to win a majority in Parliament.

By the end of the century, Labour — though still represented in Parliament — could regard its constant election losses as proof that "the system" is irredeemably rigged against it. The party will cease to regard a parliamentary majority as giving a government the right to impose an unpopular tax, or any other controversial policy, and will lead its support to virtually any union or interest group which considers itself "in struggle".

Most Tories would publicly lament the loss of a strong Opposition, and would privately be delighted. It would ensure more or less permanent Tory rule, perhaps punctuated by governments drawn from the new Alliance party and refugees from the once-constitutional Labour Party. But a Parliamentary Labour Party which was constantly encouraging the citizenry to acts of petty revolt would lend a certain respectability to those acts. The Tories would tend to be re-elected, but the country would become a disagreeable, ran-

corous place drifting towards ungovernability which — to some extent — was what was happening in the 1970s.

The situation would be made worse because the parliamentarians doing the encouraging would have a certain respectability conferred on them by the venerable offices and institutions which they would be using as platforms. If, as a result of Labour giving up on general elections, the leadership of her Majesty's Opposition went to some future Benn, endless groups would have their "struggles" dignified by a demagogue with "Her Majesty's" as part of his job description.

The "struggles" would not necessarily be illegal. There will continue to be legal strikes. But by automatically supporting every strike, a Bannite Parliamentary Labour Party would encourage the notion of politics as a series of conflicts settled by various forms of force — the antithesis of parliamentary democracy. Such attitudes are contagious, especially if they enjoy some success. If, by some accident, a Bannite Labour Party later formed a government, assorted groups of Tories and right-wingers would assuredly go in for their own forms of disruption, especially since a Bannite government would need to send out far more edicts and registration forms than are dreamt of in the community charge.

All this may seem a long way from the Scottish Labour Party's posturings over the community charge — but not unimaginably far. A group called "Scottish Labour Action" has urged outright non-payment. The Scottish Labour leadership has launched a campaign called "Stop It" which urges people to send back registration forms, go in for interminable queries, and do everything to disrupt registration "within the letter of the law".

Mr Kinnock supports the latter. But Mr Benn will point out that this is feeble of him, and if Mr Kinnock shrinks from encouraging further passive disobedience when the English register for the community charge later in this Parliament, it will look feeble still. All the more reason why Mr Kinnock should have nothing to do with such "struggles" within or without the law. The struggle he should worry about is how to win power by the old route with a party many of whose members are not travelling to the same destination.

STAYING ON IN THE PACIFIC

The Philippines Government this week fired a warning shot which must have echoed disturbingly round the Pentagon. Only days before bilateral talks in Manila, the Foreign Minister, Mr Raul Manglapus, attacked the presence of the US military bases in his country. At home they caused divisions among the people, he complained; abroad, they identified the nation with American policy.

In one sense his public protest was expected. The talks are to fix compensation for the continuing use of Clark air base and Subic Bay naval station in 1990-91. The Philippines want to increase the American aid they receive, and the bases represent the best bargaining chips they have. Manila sources have been hinting for a while that they consider it time for the Americans to start paying more for them.

But the lease runs out altogether in three years' time. The Foreign Minister's policy statement has refocused attention on the widespread opposition to Clark and Subic within the country. Pro-American Filipinos think that Washington should pay more. But the "antis" protest that the bases should be scrapped.

Mr Manglapus went so far as to suggest that the Government had been studying how to convert them to civilian use if needs be — as did Singapore after the British withdrawal in 1970. There was also the suggestion that the Philippines might start asking questions about the presence of nuclear weapons — a sensitive issue on which Mr Aquino's Government has so far maintained a discreet silence.

One reason why the Pentagon is worried, is that Clark and Subic Bay are irreplaceable. Not only are they the largest American bases left in Asia, providing coverage of the Pacific and

Indian Oceans, but it is hard to see where else displaced forces could go. Senior officers are only too mindful of Cam Ranh Bay, across the South China Sea in Vietnam, now occupied by the Soviet navy.

To some extent the position of the Philippines is unique. Last year Mr Manglapus toured Asean countries in a vain attempt to argue the case for a policy of collective support for the US military presence. But Asean considers the bases, together with Cam Ranh Bay, an obstacle to its own ambition to create a Zone of Freedom, Peace and Neutrality in the region. When Mrs Aquino herself tried to raise the point at an Asean summit in Manila in December, she upset her fellow heads of government by introducing a controversial issue. In consequence, she feels vulnerable at home — where the left uses the bases as a popular rallying cause for the faithful. Abroad she feels exposed and isolated.

But Nato might share the Pentagon's concern. The difficulties created over the hosting of American troops, even by those who are supposed to be their allies — like Spain or Greece or Portugal — are perceived by Congress as unfriendly and ungrateful responses. It would be a serious blow to Nato if the American presence in Europe were reduced. So too, if less directly, would be the loss of Clark and Subic Bay. It would rob the West of a vital stabilizing influence in a potentially unstable part of the world, whose importance is daily growing. If the Americans need diplomatic support in persuading the Philippines Government of the benefits the bases bring, economically and politically, to the region, the Western powers should be ready to help. It is in everyone's general interest that the Yanks should not go home.

MAN AND MOUNT

The regrets of Mr Ian Botham at the withdrawal of the three elephants from his Alpine charity march are surely sincere. The four would have made good companions in their pursuit of Hannibal's ghost.

They share far more than their most obvious attributes — strong legs, thick skins, and a love of throwing things about in play. Both are subject to unfortunate leg injuries, for example, like the one which caused the trouble yesterday. Both too, it can be pointed out, have even suffered rejection by Australia.

The troubles of the Australian elephant took place some 60 million years ago. Although there is an African elephant and an Indian elephant, and while the fossils of elephantine ancestors have been found on every continent — from Cyprus to southern California — none has ever appeared down under. Such, it appears, was the strength of the evolutionary will.

The rejection of Mr Botham is more recent — and may not last as long. Unlike Mother Nature, cricket authorities the world over are not known for their iron wills, particularly if there is a financial price to be paid. Queensland cricket without Botham may turn out to be rather less profitable than with him. It may, in fact, be like a circus without an elephant.

Today, however, Mr Botham plans to continue his march with only journalists and charity workers for company. We wish him well.

Even without the elephants, not even the

cricketer's severest critics could challenge his suitability to take the role of Hannibal. The Carthaginian general was an inspirational leader of men. He too came young to fame, and achieved prodigious physical feats before allowing himself a little too much of the high life.

Moreover, as the historian Polybius pointed out not long afterwards, the original conquest of the Alps was always something of a public relations stunt. The passes were depicted as impassable except by gods, so as to raise to godlike status any mortal who managed to get to the other side. For a time, it worked.

Even 2,000 years ago elephants were a tool of publicity and self-promotion. Although they terrified the Alpine natives, Hannibal won only one serious battle with their help. And while it is true, as one of Botham's advisers told an animal welfare protester, that all of Hannibal's 37 beasts survived the journey, only one lasted long thereafter.

But it was the image of this one great beast, with its one-eyed master astride its back, which became the enduring image of Hannibal. It made him seem heroic even in defeat, even after he had been driven back home in disgrace.

This fact may not be lost on Mr Botham as he meets his elephants for the nightly photocall that is all their keepers will allow. Man and beast can comfort themselves with the fame and glory to come — even if today both have tails between their legs.

Fair play for women in jobs field

From Dr Frada Eskin
Sir, Throughout my professional life I have been struck by the curious fact that women far outweigh men in their ability to oppress members of their own sex. I find myself increasingly both saddened and infuriated by the way in which many women, instead of offering support and encouragement, take every opportunity to jibe at and to denigrate the efforts of other women to achieve their potential and further their careers.

Thus I found it particularly disturbing that someone of Barbara Amiel's status should find it amusing to write in such disparaging terms of Mrs Foster's obvious concern to ensure that women are aware of the existence of sexual discrimination (article, March 25). Any woman who thinks that the day of equal opportunity has arrived is living in a fool's paradise and needs to be disabused of this fantasy.

If it were so, every organisation would automatically offer crèche facilities for their staff, there would be equal terms and conditions of service for both sexes in every work situation, professions such as nursing would not be underpaid and it would not even occur to people to comment upon the sex of their doctor, solicitor or other professional adviser.

Yours faithfully,
FRADA ESKIN, Director,
Centre for Professional Development,
Department of Community Medicine,
University of Manchester,
Stopford Building,
Oxford Road,
Manchester M13,
March 27.

From the Director of the Industrial Society
Sir, Barbara Amiel, on the basis of her reaction to one speech by Joanna Foster to the High Flyers Conference, proceeded to produce a slashing attack on Mrs Foster's role in helping women to develop in industry, which she has been involved in for the past four years as head of the Industrial Society's Pepperell Unit.

Insurance companies, banks,

the Civil Service and the Government have taken Joanna Foster seriously because she has a first-class record in developing the badly needed skills of 45 per cent of the work-force.

At a time when we are facing a serious decline in the number of young people coming into the labour market together with serious skill shortages, Joanna Foster's campaigning work amongst women to persuade many of them to set their sights somewhat higher is meeting an important national need.

If Barbara Amiel addressed as many white, male-dominated audiences of senior managers as I do, she would understand why the Pepperell Unit is badly needed and why all of us who work at the Industrial Society take great pride that Joanna has been chosen to continue her campaigning work as head of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR GRAHAM,
The Industrial Society,
Peter Runge House,
3 Carlton House Terrace, SW1.

From the Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission
Sir, When Mrs Joanna Foster, my successor in May in the chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission, takes over, she and her fellow commissioners will have statutory duties laid on them by Parliament to work towards the elimination of sex discrimination.

Discrimination, ignorance and prejudice amongst enlightened management and trade unions do, unfortunately, exist and there is still a need for a watchdog body to ensure that the law of the land is obeyed.

That does not mean the imposition of quotas, which are illegal in the UK, but makes possible the appointment of the best person for the job, without prejudice, whether it be a man or a woman.

Yours sincerely,
PLATT OF WRITTE, Chairman,
Equal Opportunities Commission,
Overseas House,
Quay Street,
Manchester 3.

buy comparatively small parcels of land for use as shoots or merely for the pleasure of ownership.

Such persons often have large tax liabilities, and if they were able to mitigate these by ownership of an SSSI, properties incorporating them would become actively sought after.

The ultimate result would be that much of the most important remaining unspoiled areas would be owned by those who wished to preserve them.

If it was considered important enough to spend taxpayers' money on producing low-grade timber which could be imported cheaper from elsewhere, surely a much smaller sum could be devoted to maintaining our irreplaceable wild areas.

Yours,
ALAN MORRIS,
Pippington Park,
Nuteley, Sussex.

Desirable sites

From Mr Alan Morris
Sir, Now that the tax incentives have been removed from commercial forestry one of the major influences in the despoilation of some of our most attractive countryside should disappear. However, would it not be a good idea if the same mechanism was used to the positive benefit of our precious natural heritage?

As things stand, there is every incentive for farmers and landowners to capitalise on their occupancy or ownership of a site of special scientific interest by threatening to destroy it. Some land agents even advertise their services in assisting in such black-mail.

Perhaps it would be possible to so arrange the tax structure that ownership or occupancy of an SSSI would confer tax advantages. Many business people nowadays

leaders presently imprisoned for fictitious crimes. Some have been brutally beaten.

Add to these the bankrupt economy, starvation wages and an infant-mortality rate which is the highest in Europe, and Poland emerges as potentially explosive.

Before the Prime Minister visits Poland, Britain must make three matters plain. First, any loans, either indirect or direct, must be conditional on human rights concessions. Second, companies trading with Poland should insist upon a freeing of private enterprise. Third, any further agreement on either strategic or conventional weapons in Europe must contain democratic concessions in Poland, as well as the Soviet Union.

Poland's problems are ours too; upon its stable and independent future rests that of détente and peace within Europe.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY M. V. COOMBS,
House of Commons,
March 18.

Slightly confused

From Mr Geoffrey Bourne-Taylor
Sir, Mr G. Price's amusing story of the "haddock stirring (ad hoc steering) committee" (March 25) reminds me of an experience in the early sixties when, as a young police constable, I ventured to try out the newfangled "dictaphone" to report my attendance at a street accident.

"On my arrival," I explained, "the junction was controlled by two RAC men..."

The following day, my report was ready for signature, the junction being "controlled by two Irish seamen!"
Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BOURNE-TAYLOR,
181 Hershman Road,
Walton-on-Thames, Surrey,
March 25.

Bishop's call

From Mr A. Montague Browne
Sir, The contrast between the gallant and Christian stance of Bishop Daley, of Down and Connor (report, March 23), and that of some of his weasel-mouthed fellow bishops is glaring. Should not the Vatican now speak out in praise of one and in condemnation of the other, and in particular of the priests who excuse and encourage terrorism?

Bland statements that all acts of violence are abhorrent are simply

Ethnic priorities

From Mr H. A. McGhee
Sir, Your leading article, "The governor speaks" (March 24), whilst being entirely appropriate to the ethnic situation in the United States of America which it addresses, carries an important message for the UK.

Like the USA, we are now a nation with extensive ethnic minorities who must be drawn into British society through total integration in our educational system with emphasis on spoken and written English. Any proposals for separate treatment will, if carried through, prove as dangerous in this country as those referred to in your leader.

Yours faithfully,
H. A. MCGHEE,
7 Eaton Row, SW1.

not enough: the time has surely come for the Pope to excommunicate the IRA and those who support it.

It may be argued that the IRA itself is in any case beyond the reach of Christian reproach, but a good many of its supporters and fund-raisers may not be so.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MONTAGUE BROWNE,
c/o R3 Section,
Lloyds Bank plc,
6 Pall Mall, SW1,
March 24.

In defence of Victorian values

From the Master of St Catharine's College, Cambridge
Sir, The Abbey National management proposes to turn the society into a limited company and float its shares on the stock market. Is there no one in political or legal authority who is prepared to defend Victorian values?

Among the most worthy embodiments of those values were the thrift institutions — the friendly societies, savings banks and building societies — which used the principles of cooperative risk-sharing and mutual oversight to foster the spirit of self-help and prudence among less privileged social classes.

These powerful ideals have for long been threatened by the fact that the Trustee Savings Bank and building society movements came to be dominated by managements who were not answerable to their investors, and had no shareholders in the normal sense. And the situation became scandalous when the courts allowed the salaried management of the Trustee Savings Bank to sell its assets to third parties. It was thereby transformed into yet another private financial institution.

Now we learn that the Abbey National is aiming to do something similar. No doubt the management, excited at the pros-

Court reform

From Mr John P. Doyle
Sir, Your Legal Affairs Correspondent reports (March 18) that the Lord Chancellor is keen to progress toward a family court but in two stages: firstly by reforming the law and only subsequently by adopting a new court structure; the latter to be "backed by a conciliation service".

Whilst I am relieved to read that this is still a live issue I am concerned about the effect the further delay will have on existing independent conciliation services. Many of them are experiencing severe difficulties with their finances and one wonders how long they will be able to continue without help from the Lord Chancellor. One immediate step he could take would be to raise the conciliation fee (currently £17.50) payable from the legal aid fund.

Conciliation services not only help divorcing parents and their children but also they save the public purse a great deal of money by reducing the number of expensive contested custody and access hearings. Even with a larger fee they would still represent excellent value for money.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN P. DOYLE,
Suffolk Court Welfare Service,
21 High Street,
Ipswich, Suffolk,
March 22.

Surrogate mothers

From Professor William T. Stearn
Sir, Miss Julia Black's motherly care of a baby gorilla (report and photograph, March 25) brings to mind the rearing of an orphan tree kangaroo (*Dendrolagus*) by a young Australian woman, an office worker, in Papua New Guinea, as told me in Port Moresby.

She found on the road a female tree kangaroo not long killed by a car but with a live "joey" in the pouch. She took the little creature home and, to keep it continuously warm and comfortable, made a cloth pouch for it, which she wore under her skirt, even when at work.

Later she kept it in a large cage on the balcony of her bungalow. Tree kangaroos, found only in Queensland and Papua New Guinea, are much smaller than most terrestrial kangaroos.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM T. STEARN,
17 High Park Road,
Kew Gardens,
Richmond, Surrey,
March 26.

Justice and freedom

From Lord Denning
Sir, In the opening words of the religious article today (March 26) your contributor says that "Lord Denning... in the television programme *Did You See Justice?* said that it was more important to uphold public confidence in the system than let innocent people go free".

Those words were not mine. They were the words of the interviewer. The object of the producers of *Did You See Justice?* was to justify the series of *Rough Justice* which I had criticised in the House of Lords.

My opinion then was and still is that it is more important to uphold public confidence in our system of justice than to allow convicted people — whom the media on their own investigations allege to be innocent — go free.

Yours sincerely,
DENNING,
The Lawn,
Whitchurch, Hampshire,
March 26.

Cold comfort

From Mr Keith Sharp
Sir, With her glasses broken, how did Miss Flowers (report, March 26) know that the beast which ate her breakfast was a polar bear? It might have been an Eskimo out for a morning walk. Just as well the rifle was out of reach (or, perhaps, simply out of focus?).

Yours, from the tranquillity of Tunbridge Wells,
KEITH SHARP,
Bechhurst,
Hurstwood Lane,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
March 26.

pect of transforming a mutual enterprise into a profit-making machine, will sweeten the pill by giving some classes of its investors some small privileged access to the honey-pot. And enough of them will no doubt be persuaded that this is a desirable move to vote in favour. But that will not excuse an action which abandons the values and trustworthiness which created the society in the first instance, and takes it away from those to whom it rightly belongs.

The Prime Minister rightly sees much good in the values which shaped social progress and economic success in Victorian Britain. Here is her chance to defend them against hijackers from another age.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY SUPPLE,
St Catharine's College,
Cambridge.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 31 1924

Rennie's bridge over the Thames, opened by the Prince Regent in 1817, was both loved and admired — "the noblest bridge in the world", according to the sculptor, Canova — but it had its drawbacks. This letter, expressing concern as to its future, is signed by a distinguished group of artists, authors and architects. The bridge was demolished in 1938; the new one, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, OM, in collaboration with the engineers Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, was completed in 1944 and officially opened by Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary, in 1945.

RENNIE'S WATERLOO BRIDGE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir, — The report of a reconstruction of Waterloo Bridge to double its present width was confirmed at the beginning of the week, and it is understood that the project has already passed the Committee stage in the London County Council and will come up at the meeting of Tuesday next. We, the undersigned, being conscious of the unique artistic significance of Rennie's Waterloo Bridge — one of the finest masterpieces in architecture to which our country can lay claim — are yet aware that a purely negative attempt to preserve its identity after the necessary repairs have been effected would be as little likely to meet with success as the similar appeal, made a short while ago, for a reconstruction of the St. Paul's Bridge policy. The very scarcity of the traffic situation in the present instance, however, happily enables the problem of the preservation of the original Waterloo Bridge to be met with a constructive suggestion instead of with one of a dissuasive tendency only.

Proposals have recently been put forward (and one of them, at any rate, rewarded with universal public approval) for the erection of new bridges within short distance of Waterloo — namely, upstream at Charing Cross and downstream at the eastern end of Somerset House. Both these proposals have been thrust aside in favour of the St. Paul's and Lambeth schemes, neither of whose warmest supporters have claimed a title of the merely utilitarian urgency which in the Strand region is reckoned, it would seem, to demand the lasting displacement of Waterloo Bridge. But not only do we hold that the exigencies of communication in this area would be more aptly, more permanently, and more economically met by splitting up the traffic and diverting some — preferably the heavier — over a new bridge, than by concentrating the whole of it upon Waterloo (especially when out a remodelling of the Strand approaches) but we see in the construction of the proposed temporary bridge an expenditure justified by not the smallest return, and one which either of the above permanent bridges might, given sufficient forethought and expedition, render unnecessary.

A new metropolitan bridge between Westminster and Blackfriars, in fine, has suddenly ceased to be a matter for public advocacy and enlightened action — a promising germinal idea to be gradually matured, enriched, and fortified. It has instead become a question of immediate urgency...

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK ABERCROMBIE,
CHARLES ATKIN, SQUIRE BANCROFT, CHRISTIAN BARMAN, ARNOLD BENNETT, LAURENCE BIRNBY, JAMES BONE, FRANK BRANGWYN, MARTIN CONWAY, A. TRYSTAN EDWARDS, RALPH KNOTT, H.V. LANCHESTER, SIDNEY LEE, R.V. LUCAS, D.S. MAC COLL, H.W. MASSINGHAM, C.H. REILLY, J.C. SQUIRE, J. ST. LOE STRACHEY, CHARLES WALSTON.

The following, while dissociating themselves from any reference to positive proposals made in the above letter, join in protesting against the threatened vandalism.
EDWIN L. LUTYENS,
J.A. SPENDER.
The Office of Architecture, 28, Bedford-square, W.C., March 29.

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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Take to the woad

Chelmsford 123 (Channel 4) is a comedy series which, like the BBC's *Blackadder*, appeals to the educational over-achievers of the British middle class. From the ragbag of irrelevant but attractive information with which every pre-GCSE student was equipped for adult life, Jimmy Melville and Rory McGrath have created a hilarious chronicle of Roman Britain, which would mean little to one whose formative years were not dissipated in declining *Res Publica* and building a model Roman camp.

Inspiration has also undoubtedly come from the popular television commercials in which Roy Kinnear, as a Roman centurion, tries to persuade modern industrialists to encamp in Peterborough. The result is one of those rare and delightful comedy series that create their own wholly believable worlds. The Romans are soft-living and naive, the Brits are idle, dishonest and woad-smearing and last night's episode concerned that piece of Roman imperial inheritance, the Roman Road.

The world of *Codename Kyril* (ITV) was the world of modern espionage and remained wholly unconvincing after two days of exposition. I suspect that the ability to enjoy espionage thrillers may be inherited on the Y-chromosome. This lavishly appointed drama, commented upon by Andrew Hisslop in this column yesterday, had everything demanded by the genre. There was handsome monotone photography, glamorous international locations, sinister music and an impenetrable plot of cross and double cross.

There was a blue chip cast, headed by Ian Charleson as the Kremlin assassin, with Edward Woodward, Joss Ackland, Peter Vaughan and Denholm Elliott all exuding menace in mahogany paneled offices. These actors seemed to have been hired for the benefit of their international bankability and to apply their considerable skills to a script from which characterization had been omitted. There was also a female character, introduced on the Hitchcockian principle that there is nothing so compelling as the sight of a terrified blonde.

Spies represent the ultimate in human duplicity. A good spy story should create a world in which actions are predicated upon betrayal and invite meditation on the integrity of human relationships. There is very little purpose in an espionage drama such as *Codename Kyril*, whose ambitious seemed to go no further than looking handsome and giving the audience a few thrills. It amounted to several hours of style but no substance, having the general effect of lettuce on the Flopsy Hemmies.

Sincere attempts on the part of the director, Ian Sharp, to raise the dramatic temperature with startling shots of stately facades or decaying inner-city scenes were futile. The narrative remained as fascinating as the football results, as emotionally altering as cold tripe; some people find these items attractive, but not I.

Celia Brayfield

Poo-pooing a baby boom

Last week the distributors of *Three Men and a Baby* were able to advertise that in its first 148 days on release in the United States, it had grossed \$150,630,731 at the box office. This is all the more remarkable since it is not a very good film.

It is a situation comedy with a slight and very unlikely plot. The dialogue and characters are no better than the average television sitcom. The actors are moderately likeable, but they are required to get their laughs by a lot of running about and yelling. The film boasts a good deal of interior decoration, which is inclined to obstruct the cameraman.

The film is a fairly exact remake of a French original, *Coline Serreau's Trois hommes et un couffin*, which was not very good either. Since this film broke all French box office records, however, we have to look for something intrinsic to the story to explain its phenomenal appeal.

The central characters are a trio of bachelors, well-off professional men on the edge of middle age, who live together in a flashy pad, jog a lot, and talk too much about girls, in a nervous, schoolboyish way. Jack, an actor (Ted Danson), goes away on a job; and next morning a baby girl is deposited on the boys' doorstep, with a note explaining it is his offspring.

The other two (Tom Selleck and Steve Guttenberg) struggle bravely with the mysteries of diapers and baby-food and the dramas of infantile incontinence. Jack returns; and by the time the child's

CINEMA

Three Men and a Baby (PG)

Warner West End

Nutcracker: The Motion Picture (U)

ICA

mother comes back to claim her, all three men are head-over-heels in love with their new-found responsibility.

Babies are evidently box-office, to judge from the comparable, if smaller successes of *Raising Arizona* and *Baby Boom*; but the traditional sentimental appeal cannot explain all. Traditionally, Americans are credited with an infantile obsession with bodily functions; and it may be that baby pictures give free licence to this penchant.

Significantly the major departure from the original French script is to make much more play with the scatological comedy. The first third of the film dwells pretentiously upon defecation and urination, which, it must be confessed, produced the biggest laughs at the London press-show.

Somewhere at the centre of the attraction of the story is a curious dichotomy: while the film revives and reinforces sentimental concern with babies and parenthood,

it determinedly rejects the conventional family unit.

The ménage of three men well past the student-buddy age is a fairly odd one by any standards. Their relationships with women seem decidedly adolescent and unsatisfactory.

When the baby's mother shows up, the traditional denouement would require reconciliation and marriage to the father. Not a bit of it: she joins the ménage as bachelor number four; and the quartet is last seen pushing baby out in an adapted four-in-hand perambulator. It is a community of the single-parent family.

In this strange way the film serves to confirm the contemporary break-up of the family, while celebrating the sentimental joys of parenthood. But then, the great gift of Hollywood has ever been to promise the possibility of having one's cake and eating it.

The director who has struck this lucky gold-mine is Leonard Nimoy, the former actor, who thus moves from his *Star Trek* character of Mister Spock to Doctor Spock.

There is more holiday entertainment than usual for the juniors this Easter. For the discerning there is *Asterix in Britain* (Cannon, Tottenham Court Road), which I mentioned last week. For the younger and less demanding, there is Raymond Jaffee's *The Care Bears Adventure in Wonderland* (matinees around the country), which recklessly borrows characters from Lewis Carroll and graphic styles from Disney.



Babe's in arms: Tom Selleck (left), Steve Guttenberg (centre) and Ted Danson get to grips with the problem

After a long and arduous production, a film adaptation of a production first presented on stage by the Pacific Northwest Ballet of Seattle, designed by Maurice Sendak and with choreography by Kent Stowell.

It looks as if the original was an intelligent and interesting production, spicing Tchaikovsky's sugar plums with more sinister elements retrieved from E.T.A. Hoffmann's

original story. The one-eyed Drosselmeier and the fighting mice are distinctly unsettling creations.

Unfortunately, even though he has given out strong statements on how ballet should be filmed, Carroll Ballard (whose previous films were *The Black Stallion* and *Cry Wolf*) actually does it quite badly. He commits the cardinal errors of fast cutting and shooting in too close detail, thereby losing

both the flow and the composition of the choreography.

The effect is at once fussy and monotonous, with occasional respites only when he has the courage to show the whole stage picture. Moreover, despite his assertion that "I'm not really a 'talk person'", Ballard gives the heroine long and superfluous voice-over monologues.

David Robinson

He is still an outsider

Charles-Valentin Alkan died a hundred years ago on Tuesday. His music is played reasonably often today, though not by many, and it has been recorded. Yet he is still regarded as a mysterious composer.

Two things contribute to that reputation: first he was a recluse, and second he wrote music of formidable waywardness and technical difficulty. Those things, however, do not necessarily make him anything more than an intriguing figure.

There were some at this celebratory recital who would doubtless lay claim to a higher status for him, but ultimately, individual and beautiful though many of Alkan's ideas are, and despite his unquestionable integrity, the alchemy does not quite work. He remains, essentially, an outsider.

His music, nevertheless, deserves to be championed with every ounce of the ardour shown in the three rarely played chamber pieces in this recital. First there was the Piano Trio, Op 30, composed in 1841, and a piece which states the composer's in-

CONCERTS

Alkan Centenary Concert

Wigmore Hall

dividuality from its very first bars.

To the violin (James Clark) and cello (Moray Welsh) are assigned the meat of the first movement's ideas, the first of them striding confidently, the second more lyrical, though one is constantly aware of the piano's teeming fount of notes.

Then there is a bizarre Scherzo, and an even stranger slow movement, with a chorale played by the strings alternating with the piano's replies in *tempo rubato*.

The effectiveness of the whole, however, might have been heightened had Alkan been less expansive in his manner; the 6/8 finale, in particular, contains more than its fair share of literal sequences and unchanging rhythms. But the Grand Duo, Op 21, of around

1840, stands or falls by its very grandness.

This sprawling, phenomenally challenging work has a first movement that begins in deceptively baroque fashion but then, in a profligate sequence of ideas, runs the gamut of key contrasts. The second movement, "L'Enter" which exploits what in Alkan's day were considered harmonies outside the rulebook.

The finale rises above even the first movement in terms of its sheer difficulty. Both Clark and the pianist, Ronald Smith, were veritable heroes here.

Finally, the most convincing work of the evening, the *Sonate de Concert*, Op 47, written in 1857, betrayed some influence from the more conservative composers of the day.

Such relative level-headedness could not last long, however, and the finale, which tossed the music between keys in a wilful attempt to disorientate the ear, returns to Alkan's private world, where brilliant and insight live in constant conflict.

Stephen Pettitt

Bridge of supplication

LPO/Muti Festival Hall

after the restoration of the French monarchy brought a late flowering to a composer whose long life-span made him a contemporary of Gluck and Mozart as well as Beethoven and Berlioz. This G-

major Mass, though lacking some of the epic serenity in his better-known *Requiem* in C-minor, bridges certain stylistic aspects from one century to the next.

Cherubini's setting disdains anything so theatrical as solo voices, yet obtains a variety of expressive character from the chorus which might look back to Mozart's *Idomeneo* at one early point, to the near-contemporaneity of Beethoven's *Fidelio* at another, and even prefigure the *Romeo and Juliet* choruses of Berlioz at jauntier moments of the "Credo".

Voices may be left unaccompanied at a stretch (no problems of pitch for this choir), or key words isolated and intensified by repetition in different registers.

What Berlioz, for all his car-donic wit at Cherubini's expense, called his "sustained sublimity of style" is evident here in the supplicatory feeling, and in the resourceful use of a conventional orchestra to lighten that feeling and to give the impression of changing perspectives over the 45-minute duration.

After this introduction here, and no doubt a gramophone record to come, it should be a welcome addition to choral concerts.

The programme was shared with Cherubini's great admirer, Beethoven, whose Piano Concerto No 1 was given a chauffeur-driven steadiness of performance by Krystian Zimerman. His dapper account of the first movement enclosed an uncommonly stealthy development which he echoed in a solo cadenza almost as long, and his tendency to a Chopinesque arch of phrase imparted a warm sentiment to the Largo movement, with a good-humoured finale to follow. Simplicity was its own reward.

Noël Goodwin

"BRILLIANT"

— David Denby, VOGUE

"A more complete film than any on the Academy's Best Film list."

— Derek Malcolm, THE GUARDIAN

"Spielberg's gift for spectacle has not deserted him... his most mature work to date."

— Iain Johnstone, SUNDAY TIMES



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NOMINATIONS

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THEATRE

Exit Entrance

Donmar Warehouse

of a living tomb, where days come and go with a few seconds of sunlight.

There is little in the text to match that for dramatic comment. *Exit Entrance* is a literary play; a form hardly seen in Britain for the past 30 years. Old or young, the partners' dialogue proliferates with stylized catalogues and echo exchanges remote from common speech.

There are also modish theatrical echoes: notably of Beckett's *Endgame* and — when they get down to their mismatching romantic memories — of Harold Pinter in his "Ah, I remember it well" vein.

In such cultivated company, it is a bit of a let-down to hear the aged Charles sounding off about his son's partiality for "nancy boys". His lectures on the Greeks must have been fun!

Pandora's Box

Latchmere Theatre.

The ECBA Company's declared intent is to further English awareness of German drama, at least the third new company to announce such aims in the past year. With initials standing for Everything Can Be Achieved — a case of misguided confidence if ever there was one — the company is going to have to back up its ideas, if it is going to be able to recover credibility.

In any case, Wedekind's second *Lulu* play is a quicqually tough assignment. The melodramatic thrills of *Erzählung* end with its amoral heroine shooting her third husband; the sequel is supposed to show her descent through foetid circles of slave slavery, gamblers

and pimps in Berlin and Paris until Jack the Ripper turns her into red spaghetti in a London garret.

Incidents and language in the original are disconnected, and relationships are made the more baffling by being grounded in the events of the previous play. Simon Harris's assembly of players gives little indication that they are listening to, still less comprehending, what their fellows say.

Presumably they know what happened in Part One whereas those who come fresh to it all can only be dazzled by the succession of one-humour characters mouthing their one-track concerns.



Young Turk and his bird: Malcolm Douglas cradled by Ingrid Craigie

The attitude of the younger to the older self is one of the great themes, but no such comment emerges from this event, which seems merely to be saying, what a pity we have to grow old.

This is particularly wasteful as Ben Barnes's company are uncannily well-matched in physique; one can well imagine the ar-

rogantly vulnerable Malcolm Douglas growing up into the irascibly defeated Denys Hawthorne, and the bird-like Ingrid Craigie developing into the smiling, chair-bound Joan O'Hara — a bewitching actress of whom I hope the English stage will take note.

Irving Wardle

Over-ambitious

moments of grim farce suggest that outright exaggeration might reach closer to the play's hard heart. Dress the coarse acrobat in leopard-spotted leotards; make the countess grovel with her head between Lulu's knees. But that would still leave the matter of performances and direction, and those concerned are fortunate I have no space left to revile them.

Jeremy Kingston

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It is also important to consider the reputation of the insurance company. Look for companies that have been established for a long time and have a good track record.

Finally, it is important to read the terms and conditions of the policy carefully. Make sure you understand what is covered and what is not covered.

Health insurance is a complex subject, and it is important to seek professional advice if you are unsure about which policy to choose.

Greater sup-
The Minister, in common with
the rest of the human race, had not
yet been blessed and still waiting in
the wings off from her duties to have
her own series operated on.

As a woman past middle age, a
mother of three, and somebody who
had spent much of her day working in
a hospital, the human upright posture
was not a new experience for her.
There is a one-way valve in the
human body, namely, the lungs, which
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Between 1975 and
1985 the rate of
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percent. The Bank
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been trying to
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in the pound. The
result has been a
period of high
inflation.

HEALTH

Going private: what do you get?

Private health insurance schemes offer a bewildering range of scales, bands and discounts, so how do you find the best policy for you? Lee Rodwell discovers what eight prominent companies cover, what they do not — and what it costs

WHAT IT COSTS: PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEMES COMPARED

COMPANY	Child Cover	Single person, 20	Married couple, mid-20s	Married couple, mid-30s, 2 children	Married couple, early 60s	DISCOUNTS
Orion	Dependent children covered up to 18 or 21 if in full-time education. Family rate covers any number of children.	£14.20	£30.40	£41.00	not applicable	5 per cent for annual direct debit payment; 10 per cent if you agree to an excess of £50 per person per annum or 15 per cent for £100
Crusader	Up to 21, family rate covers any number	£15.95	£31.91	£34.34	£48.55	Plans can be bought only through an independent financial adviser which gives a 25 per cent discount
BUPA	Up to 18, family rate covers any number for the same price as one	£10.20	£30.83	£42.80	£47.57	5 per cent for annual direct debit payment; 15 per cent for quarterly payment by Access or TSB; 10 per cent if you belong to a professional body and join under a group plan
Crown Life	Up to 21. Pay extra for first and second children; additional children covered free	£14.40	£26.60	£38.50	£49.70	7% per cent for annual payment by cheque or direct debit; 10 per cent for non-smokers; 15 per cent if you accept £100 excess on every claim; 27% per cent for no claims after one year; 40 per cent maximum after three claim-free years.
Western Provident	Family rate applies until 21. Pay the same however many children you have	£16.50	£32.30	£42.40	£48.70	7% per cent for annual payment; 25 per cent if you belong to a professional body and join under a group plan
PPP	Up to 21, rates vary for one, two or three children	£15.70	£29.20	£44.10	£53.00	5 per cent for direct debit payment (as reflected in the figures, PPP virtually insist on this); an additional 15 per cent for paying quarterly through Access or Visa or 20 per cent for credit card payment plus an £85 voluntary excess for each person
Sun Alliance	Up to 21, or 25 if in full-time education. Pay according to whether you have one or two. Any more are free.	£15.70	£31.40	£42.00	Must join Senior Care Plan: £29	5 per cent for annual payment plus a further 15 per cent if payment is made through Access or Visa; 18 per cent for the self-employed
Prime Health Plus	Up to 21, no limit on number of children covered	£13.50	£24.70	£34.30	£46.70	7% per cent for non-smokers; 7% per cent for annual payment; additional 15 per cent for opting for optional excess of £100 per person per course of treatment

● All figures apply to new, not existing, policyholders. For the purposes of this table we have offered the lowest band offered by each company: Orion Healthcare Provincial; Crusader Healthcare General; BUPA General; Crown Life Mastercare C; Western Provident Association Scale 3; Private Patients Plan Family Health Plan — Schedule D (Part I and II); Sun Alliance Health First C Plan; Prime Health Plus Scale C.

WHAT IS COVERED

- **HOSPITAL CHARGES** (nursing and accommodation): Of the eight schemes in our sample, seven offer a full refund for hospital charges — Crown Life, PPP, Sun Alliance and Prime Health Plus with the qualification "in your band", Orion and Crusader to the NHS provincial teaching hospital rates (now £164 a night). Western Provident covers you up to £147 a day.
- **SURGEONS' AND ANAESTHETISTS' FEES** (Complex operation (eg heart operation, average cost), inclusive of hospital charges, £4,560-£6,540) — four cover a full refund, the others from £1,005 (BUPA) to £2,080 (Sun Alliance). Major-plus operation (eg hip replacement, £2,100-£4,020) three of the eight (Orion, Crown Life, Prime Health) offer full refund; the others from £675 (PPP) to £775 (Sun Alliance).
- **OUTPATIENT CONSULTATIONS, DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES, PHYSIOTHERAPY**: Orion and Sun Alliance cover full refund, the others up to £150 (PPP) or £500 (Prime Health and Crown Life, the latter with an excess of £30 on each claim).
- **RADIOTHERAPY, CHEMOTHERAPY, BRAIN AND BODY SCANNING**: Six of the eight cover full refunds: BUPA up to £335 and Provident £370 for each course of treatment.
- **CASH BENEFIT FOR IN-PATIENT TREATMENT IF DONE FREE UNDER THE NHS**: Rates per night range from £15 (Crusader, BUPA) to £35 (Sun Alliance) and the maximum number of nights for which you can claim from 35 (BUPA) to no limit at all (Sun Alliance).

There are also some lower-cost alternatives you might consider. PPP runs a Private Hospital Plan, a low-cost scheme which provides for private hospital care if the NHS waiting list is longer than six weeks. Crusader has teamed up with the Nuffield Hospitals to offer a cheaper Healthcare plan based on treatment at one of the hospitals in the group. Older people, concerned about hospital waiting lists, might consider Sun Alliance's Senior Care Plan or PPP's Retirement Health Plan. Sun Alliance also offers Life Wise, a

health plan for women, covering only breast and cervical cancer. Private medical insurance is intended to be complementary to the NHS, not a replacement for it. It leaves emergencies, long-term illnesses, psychiatric and geriatric care to the NHS because of the costs involved. This is also the reason for other exclusions, such as normal conditions of pregnancy and in-vitro fertilization. However, claims for such things as caesareans or breech births, or for tests to find out why a woman is not conceiving might be acceptable. Western Provident and Prime Health, for example, do cover investigation and treatment (but not IVF). Crusader offers investigation and treatment but not "assisted reproduction". No health insurance policy covers GP care, cosmetic surgery, treatment for long-term renal dialysis or dental conditions not requiring oral surgery.

Different companies have different attitudes to things as diverse as Aids and alternative therapies. Some view Aids as they do any other self-inflicted ailment (like sexually transmitted diseases) and exclude any treatment directly or indirectly related to it. Others, like Prime Health, cover you if you get the virus from, say, a blood transfusion. Sun Alliance and BUPA offer cover only after a five year all-clear period, subject to certain maxima. As for alternative medicine, which could include osteopathy or acupuncture, some rule it out altogether, while PPP will consider it for a specific medical condition and others (Crown Life, Sun Alliance and BUPA) allow claims provided a recognized specialist recommends treatment.

So what does private health insurance cover? Rob Bryson-Ross, underwriting manager of Crown Life's health insurance section says: "As a rule of thumb if a condition is curable, it's acute, if it's incurable it's chronic. We are concerned with the acute. Apart from certain exclusions as long as something can be cured health insurance will pay for it." But will health insurance pay for all the treatment you need? In practice few people whose policies stipulated set limits would find themselves out of pocket, provided they were being treated at a hospital within their chosen band, but it is imperative to check fees and costs with specialists and hospitals before agreeing to any course of treatment.

Working out the best scheme for your own circumstances is not that easy. Some people prefer to get an insurance broker to do the donkey work for them. But it is probably still worth doing some research yourself before asking a broker what he would recommend — even if that simply means picking out three or four possible schemes and asking for comparisons of costs and benefits.



Greater support from your doctor

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

If the Prime Minister, in common with the rest of the human race, had not evolved as a biped and still walked on all fours, she would never have had to take a day off from her duties to have her varicose veins operated on.

As a woman past middle age, a mother of twins, and somebody who has to spend much of her day standing, she is an archetypal candidate for varicose veins. The human upright posture ensures that if there is any inherited weakness in the one-way valve in the veins of the lower limbs, varicose veins, with possible attendant complications, will arise.

As varicose veins are unsightly, age-related, and often found in overweight patients, there is a reluctance to admit to them and, in consequence, they are

considered socially unsmart. But, in reality, they have always attacked people, regardless of their social background.

Dr Charles Wiseman, the 17th century court physician, recommended — in those days before elastic yarn support stockings were available — that the aristocrats be looked after should treat their varicose veins by wearing high laced-up boots.

Today, half a million National Health patients consult their doctors annually about varicose veins, another 5% million suffer in silence at home.

Many have to tolerate the complications of untreated varicose veins: aching limbs, swollen ankles, cramping leg pains, irritating varicose eczema, the brown staining of the skin and, all too often, one of the most difficult complications of varicose veins — varicose ulcers.

These ulcers occur when the skin of the lower leg is deprived of an adequate blood supply by the swelling of the underlying tissue. Four hundred thousand people, mostly elderly, suffer from leg ulcers, the treatment of which costs the NHS £100 million annually.

Surgery is usually the treatment of choice, but as the waiting list for this operation is notoriously long, support stockings have to be worn in the meantime. In some cases surgery is not needed and stockings will suffice.

As from April, GPs will be able to prescribe compression stockings of graduated strengths. The new stockings, which must be carefully selected to fit the individual patient, are attractive to look at and virtually indistinguishable from normal, non-support stockings. They are available for both women, and in a below-knee black pattern, for men.

Prescribing stockings of insufficient strength may be quite useless and many commercially available stockings are for this reason unsuitable.



Four years old. Seriously underweight for her age. Scavenging for food where she can find it. And she's English.

With a stepfather who refused to acknowledge her existence and a mother too frightened to help her, this child was being slowly and deliberately starved.

She'd reached the point where she was feeding herself out of dustbins. It didn't happen in the famine stricken third world, it happened in an English town, (like the one you live in).

The NSPCC's first, most urgent concern is for the child.

Above all the child has to be protected. But, where appropriate, we can also provide help for children and parents.

£20.66 can begin to protect a child from abuse. And that's the sum we're asking for now.

If you can't afford quite that much, all donations are gratefully received.

I want to help protect a child and enclose my cheque or postal order: ☐ £20.66 ☐ £41.32 ☐ £61.96

Access and Visa card holders may debit their accounts.

No.

Expiry date BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Name

Address

Postcode

Please send your donation to: Dr A. Galloway, NSPCC, FREEPOST, London EC1R 1JQ.

To protect the child's identity the face has been changed.

Happier times?

It may be that the political changes since 1979 which have encouraged people to stand on their own feet makes them less likely to hang themselves by their necks. Research by Dr Colin Brewer, a London psychiatrist well-known for his writing on alcoholism and drug-addiction, suggests a steady decline in the rate of increase in suicide.

The figures he has collected in his study of recent trends in suicide show a correlation between this decline and the election of Margaret Thatcher.

Dr Brewer says that although he would not necessarily ascribe this marked reduction to her policies, he has noticed the relationship with interest and a wry smile as it seems to confound the theory that the British popula-

tion is unhappy under her administration. Happy people, in his view, do not take their own lives; suicide, he says, "is not, absolutely not" usually the result of a biochemical psychiatric disease, but a reaction to misery, often understandable, however regrettable.

As suicide becomes increasingly common with advancing age, it would seem that pensioners too, whether they realize it or not, must be happier than they were, for the figures suggest less misery and more independence.

Between 1975 and 1980 the suicide rate rose by 3.2 per cent per year; between 1980 and 1985 the rate of increase fell back to 0.5 per cent annually. The Falklands cam-

paign proved to be a particularly powerful antidote for suicide and in 1982 it actually fell by 1.2 per cent, even though at the same time unemployment was rising steeply.

There are differences between the suicide rates in men and women: between 1975 and 1980 the female rate rose by 2.3 per cent annually, since 1980 it has been falling by an average of 2.7 per cent a year. In the year of the Falklands war it fell by 10 per cent.

The welcome given to the Conservative government by men seems to be less marked. The increase in the suicide rate under Labour was 3.8 per cent per year; under Thatcherism this has been cut to 2.3 per cent per year. Once again

Hope for hands

The operation to replace a worn-out arthritic hip is now so common as to be considered a basic right and hence is used as a measure of the quality of medical services in any area. The design of artificial joints has improved in the last few years so that soon having a

the series "The Forgotten Illness" in The Times. That series has been reprinted and is now available for a minimum donation of £1 from SANE: Schizophrenia — A National Emergency, 120 Regent Street, London W1 (01-434 0150).

Spink Jewellery & Silver

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

- BBC1**
- 6.00 Ceefax AM.
 - 6.35 Edgar Kennedy in *Bad Housekeeping* (b/w).
 - 7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Jeremy Paxman and John Stapleton. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.45 and 8.25. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
 - 9.00 News and weather followed by *The Littlest Hobo*. Adventures of a German shepherd dog (r).
 - 9.30 *Why Don't You?* Entertaining ideas for bored youngsters.
 - 10.00 News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r). 10.25 Children's BBC. Simon Parkin with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Play School* (r).
 - 10.50 *The Gospel According to St Mark*. Roger Rees recounts the story of the Last Supper and Jesus's betrayal (1.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air* with Bob Wellings and Patti Caldwell. Today's guest is Barry Norman who talks about *Talking Pictures*.
 - 12.00 News and weather followed by *Daytime Live*. 12.55 Regional news and weather.
 - 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Maryn Lewis. Weather 1.30 *Neighbours*. What will Cide and Susan do when Uncle Ted asks to see their wedding photographs? 1.50 *Going for Gold*.
 - 2.15 *Film: A's Button Alost* (1938, b/w) starring the Crazy Gang and Alastair Sim. Comedy about a man who rubs a brass button fashioned from Aladdin's lamp and a genie appears, offering him and his five friends anything they wish. Directed by Marcel Varnel. 3.40 *Ask Margot*. Citizens' rights advice from Margot McDonald.
 - 3.50 *Comers*. Children's enquiries answered. 4.10 *SuperTed* (r).
 - 4.15 *Jackanory*. Thora Hird with part two of Dorothy Edwards's tale *My Naughty Little Sister* (r).
 - 4.30 *Around the World with Willy Fog*.
 - 4.55 *Newsround*. 5.05 *Blue Peter*.
 - 5.35 *Neighbours* (r).
 - 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Nicholas Witchell and Philip Hayton. Weather. 6.35 *London Plus*.
 - 7.00 *Top of the Pops*.
 - 7.30 *EastEnders*. Michelle is surprised by an invitation. (Ceefax)
 - 8.00 *Tomorrow's World* includes new reporter Anna Walker on a visit to the world's first intensive algae farm, in darkest Berkshire.
 - 8.30 *Mastermind* from the Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop. The specialist subjects are C. S. Lewis, James the Tarsier, Franz Liszt and James VI of Scotland.
 - 9.00 *A Party Political Broadcast* on behalf of the Labour Party.
 - 9.05 *News* with Maryn Lewis and weather. Regional news and weather.
 - 9.35 *All the Best* - Dave Allen. Highlights from the *Dave Allen at Large* comedy series.
 - 10.05 *Comie the Spring*. A documentary about the fascination for jump jockeys to ride in the Grand National at Aintree. With the 1986 race winner Richard Dunwoody.
 - 10.45 *Praise to the Holiest*. The last of four musical meditations. With Elizabeth Gale (soprano), Penelope Wilton (soprano), Robert Tear (tenor), Stephen Roberts (baritone), the Philharmonia Chorus, members of South Glamorgan Youth Choirs and the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra conducted by Owain Arwel Hughes. Recorded in Llandaff Cathedral.
 - 11.25 *The Gospel According to St Mark* (r).
 - 11.35 *Weather*.

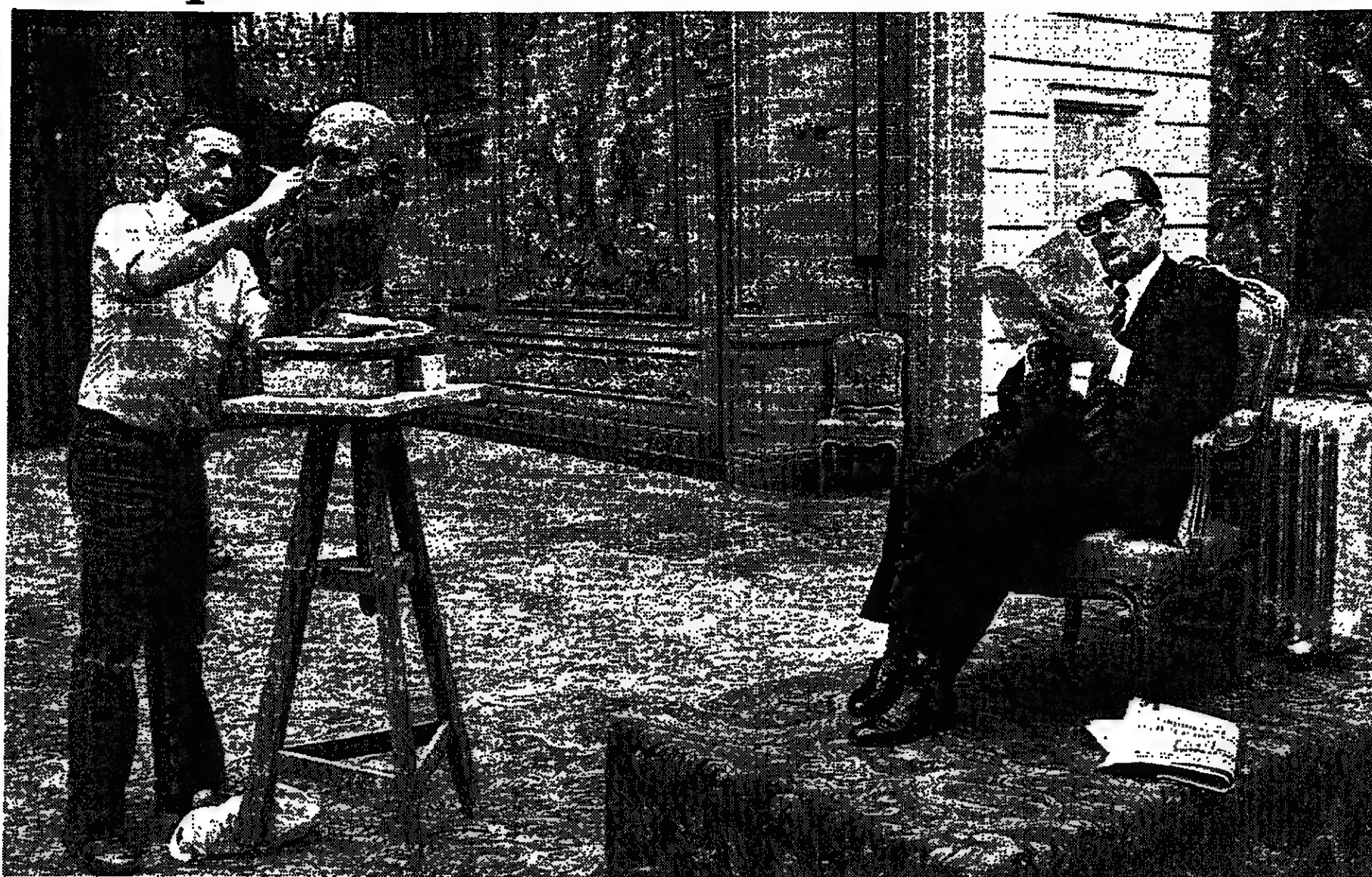
- BBC2**
- 9.00 Ceefax.
 - 11.00 *Film: Sinbad the Sailor* (1947) starring Douglas Fairbanks Jr and Maureen O'Hara. Swashbuckling yarn about Sinbad's search for Alexander the Great's treasure. Directed by Richard Wallace.
 - 12.55 *My Pal* (b/w). An RKO short. 1.15 *Popeye Classics*. *Doing Impossible Stunts* (b/w). 1.20 *Holkey Cokey* (r).
 - 1.35 *Beauty in the Eye*. A girl from Sri Lanka prepares for her Hindu wedding (r).
 - 1.45 *Music for Holy Week*. César Franck's *Choral No 3* in a minor played by the By Cathedral organist, Arthur Willis.
 - 2.00 News and weather followed by *England's Nazarene*. The story of Little Walsingham the Norfolk village which becomes a place of pilgrimage each year for some half a million Christians (r).
 - 2.40 *Winter House*. Peter Porter visits Newcastle, Nottinghamshire, once the home of Lord Byron (r).
 - 3.00 News and weather followed by *Antiques Roadshow* - The Video. A behind-the-scenes look at the *Antiques Roadshow* team prepare a programme from Venetian on the Isle of Wight (r).
 - 3.30 *Holiday Outings*. Gillian Reynolds travels by Greyhound bus to New Orleans, Southfork and Graceland (r).
 - 3.50 News, regional news and weather.
 - 4.00 *Atic Archives*. This fourth programme in the archive home movie series features people at play from before the First World War to the 1950s. Presented by John Huntley.
 - 4.30 *Is There Something After Death?* Ian Boggs. In the second programme of his series on death, talks to Penny Brown, one of the founders of the Bristol Cancer Help Centre, where holistic techniques are used to help people cope with their situation.
 - 5.00 *My Music* (r). 5.25 *Cartoon Two*. *Freedom Dancing* 5.30 *Holiday 88* (r). (Ceefax)
 - 6.00 *Battlestar Galactica*. Episode three.
 - 6.45 *Cartoon Two*. *Snipe-Clan Grapple* (r).
 - 7.00 *Cover to Cover*. Hermione Lee and her guests, Jonathan Miller and Peter Porter, discuss with Peter Carey his novel *Oscar and Lucinda*.
 - 7.30 *The Education Programme*. Teachers and pupils at a West Midlands school talk about how they have coped with the new GCSE examinations.
 - 8.00 *Out of Court* examines the case of a depressed teenager who killed her sleeping mother. She was sent to prison for life for manslaughter. This week in the Court of Appeal she will try to convince the court that she was suffering from diminished responsibility.
 - 8.30 *Nature*. Michael Burk discusses the vexed question of military use of National Parks with Roger Freeman, minister for the Armed Forces.
 - 9.00 *Blackadder*. Edmund is in New Zealand on a two year mission to find potatoes (r).
 - 9.30 *40 Minutes*. Street Glee. Birmingham's Lorraine and Tracey, explain why they have taken to prostitution (r). (Ceefax)
 - 10.15 *Cabaret at the Jangleurs*. Birmingham comedy acts.
 - 10.45 *A Party Political Broadcast* on behalf of the Labour Party.
 - 10.50 *Newsnight* 11.35 *Weather*.
 - 11.40 *It's Garry Shandling's Show* (r). Ends at 12.10am.

- ITV/LONDON**
- 6.00 TV-am includes news, financial news and sports bulletins at 6.30 and 6.00. Interspersed with reports and interviews from Florida. At 8.15 Rowan Atkinson visits the Way of the Cross in the Holy Land.
 - 9.00 *Wecadey* with Timmy Mallett in Florida.
 - 9.25 *Thames news*.
 - 9.30 *Lucky Ladders*. Game show presented by Leslie Bennett. 10.00 *Santa Barbara* 10.35 *News headlines*.
 - 10.30 *The Time... The Place...* 11.10 *Puddle Lane*. Puppet series. 11.25 *Thames news headlines*.
 - 11.30 *HomeTown*. In the last of the series Roy Hudd visits Chipping Campden and hears stories about poaching. 12.00 *The Sullivan*. 12.30 *Quandaries*. Quiz show presented by Matthew Kelly. The guest is Dickie Davies.
 - 1.00 *News at One* with Julia Somerville. 1.20 *Thames news*.
 - 1.30 *Falcon Crest*. Drama serial starring Jane Wyman as the matriarch of a California wine dynasty. 2.25 *Home Cookery Club*. Spicy ways with mince.
 - 2.30 *All Our Yesterdays*. Bernard Braden presents clips from 1953 featuring Britain's burgeoning fashion talent including Mary Quant and Jean Muir. 3.00 *Gems*. Rag trade serial set in London. 3.30 *Thames news headlines*. 3.50 *Sons and Daughters*.
 - 4.00 *Creepy Crawflies*. 4.10 *The Woman*. Episode 23 (r). 4.25 *The Sooty Scallie*. Matthew Corbett and Anne Creighton. 4.45 *Dennis*. 4.50 *Erasmus*. Micromen takes Ben and Jane back in time to meet Charles Darwin. 5.00 *Thames news*.
 - 5.15 *Connections*. Quiz game. 5.45 *News* with Alastair Stewart. 6.00 *Thames news*.
 - 6.30 *Emmerdale Farm*. Sandra's pregnancy causes a storm between her and Phil.
 - 7.00 *Sporting Triangles* introduced by Nick Owen. This week Jimmy Greaves, Tessa Sanderson and Andy Gray are joined by Chris Waddle, Dennis Taylor and Rory Bremner.
 - 7.30 *Just for Laughs*. A compilation of clips from British comedy films (r).
 - 8.00 *Bushman's Holiday*. Travel quiz show for teams.
 - 8.30 *This Week*. Denis Tuohy reports from Vienna and the Tyrol on how the small surviving Jewish communities are reacting to fellow Austrians' acts of anti-Semitism.
 - 9.00 *L. A. Live*. Drama series set in the offices of a high-powered Los Angeles law firm.
 - 9.55 *A Party Political Broadcast* on behalf of the Labour Party.
 - 10.00 *News at Ten* with Sandy Gall and Carol Barnes. 10.30 *Thames news*.
 - 10.35 *The City Programme* asks if motorists are being 'ripped off' by petrol price fixing; and are Britain's big five insurance companies at risk from United States exposure?
 - 11.05 *01- for London*. A critical guide to the capital's entertainment scene. Followed by *Crimestoppers*.
 - 11.35 *Prisoners of Conscience*. Drama serial set in an Australian women's prison.
 - 12.30 *News at Midday*. Viewers' small problems discussed by experts.
 - 1.00 *Tales from the Darkside*. *It All Comes Out in the Wash and Paintbrush*, two tales of the supernatural.
 - 2.00 *News headlines* followed by *Film: King of the Gypsies* (1978) starring Susan Sarandon. Drama about a self-styled 'king of the gypsies' who kidnaps the daughter of another gypsy leader. Directed by Frank Pierson.
 - 4.00 *News headlines* followed by *Too Close for Comfort*. Comedy.
 - 4.30 *News at Ten*.
 - 5.00 *ITN Morning News*. Ends 6.00.

- CHANNEL 4**
- 12.00 *Just 4 Fun*. Two programmes for children introduced by the puppet *Bob* - *Markies*, an animated tale from Russia, and *Old Man of the Mountains*, an animated series from Czechoslovakia narrated by Brian Blessed.
 - 12.30 *Business Daily*. Financial and business news.
 - 1.00 *Sesame Street*. Pro-school learning series for children. The guests are Billy Crystal and Madonna Kahn.
 - 2.00 *The Pantomime Programme* presented by Nicholas Woolley. Reporters James Mates and Jackie Ashley review yesterday's debates in both Houses and look forward to those scheduled for today.
 - 2.30 *Avantgarde Concerts*. The Radiotelevision Espanola Symphony Orchestra perform Joaquín Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*, with soloist Narciso Yepes, one of Spain's leading guitarists, to a background of images of the plains of La Mancha and the royal palace of Aranjuez (r).
 - 3.00 *Film: Tudor House* (1955, b/w) starring David Niven. Period drama about the various intrigues to remove Henry VIII's successor, the young and infirm Edward VI. With Cedric Hardwicke, Falk Aymer and Gwen Frangon-Davies. Directed by Robert Stevenson.
 - 4.30 *Fifteen to One*. Fast-moving general knowledge quiz game presented by William G. Stewart.
 - 5.00 *The Mysteries: The Passion*. The second play in the award-winning trilogy adapted from the medieval mystery plays by Tony Harrison, directed by Bill Bryden for the National Theatre. *The Passion* tells the story of Christ's life on earth. His impact on his followers, his betrayal, arrest, trial and execution. Jesus is played by Karl Johnson, Cayphas by Brian Glover, Mother Mary by Edna Doré, Mary Magdalene by Brenda Blethyn, Judas by Jack Shepherd, Pontius Pilate by Robert Stephens and the Angel Gabriel by Don Warrington (r).
 - 6.45 *Easter Celebration*. A preview of programmes to be seen on this channel over the Easter holiday.
 - 7.00 *News at 7* with Trevor McDonald and Nicholas Owen.
 - 7.50 *Comment* from David Prince on the subject of religion. Followed by *Weather*.
 - 8.00 *Cowboys*. Portraits of American Ranch Women. (see Choice)
 - 8.30 *Treasure Hunt*. Anneka Rice rushes and gushes around the houses and at the behest of John and Marion Brassery in search of hidden treasure. Back in the studio the urbane Kenneth Kendall keeps the contestants informed of progress while Winney Willis keeps an eye on the clock. (Oracle)
 - 9.30 *Film on Four: Macbeth* (1985) starring Carl Elwes, Irina Brook, Freddie Jones and Michael Gough. A drama, set in 1520s Berlin, about the residents of a down-market boarding house, one of whom, a young Russian exile, is confronted with his past when he sees a photograph belonging to a fellow resident. Adapted by John Mortimer from a novel by Vladimir Nabokov and directed by John Goldschmidt.
 - 11.25 *Film: Susan of Dromae* (1982). A documentary about the making of the much-troubled Werner Herzog film *Fitzcarraldo* which is being shown again on this channel on Tuesday at 10.00pm. Apart from Herzog himself those appearing in the documentary include Klaus Kinski and Claudia Cardinale as well as archive footage of original scenes from the film with Jason Roberts and Mick Jagger (r).
 - 1.10am *Film: Live in Paris* (1955, b/w) starring Toshiro Mifune as an elderly man who is so deeply concerned about the threat of atomic destruction that he tries to sell his factory and take his family to safety in Brazil. But he meets resistance to the plan - and is forced to flee. With Eiko Miyoshi and Harugo Togo. Directed by Akira Kurosawa. English subtitles. Ends at 3.05.

- VARIATIONS**
- BBC1** WALSLEY. 5.35pm-6.00pm *News*. 6.00pm-6.30pm *News*. 6.30pm-7.00pm *News*. 7.00pm-7.30pm *News*. 7.30pm-8.00pm *News*. 8.00pm-8.30pm *News*. 8.30pm-9.00pm *News*. 9.00pm-9.30pm *News*. 9.30pm-10.00pm *News*. 10.00pm-10.30pm *News*. 10.30pm-11.00pm *News*. 11.00pm-11.30pm *News*. 11.30pm-12.00pm *News*. 12.00pm-12.30pm *News*. 12.30pm-1.00pm *News*. 1.00pm-1.30pm *News*. 1.30pm-2.00pm *News*. 2.00pm-2.30pm *News*. 2.30pm-3.00pm *News*. 3.00pm-3.30pm *News*. 3.30pm-4.00pm *News*. 4.00pm-4.30pm *News*. 4.30pm-5.00pm *News*. 5.00pm-5.30pm *News*. 5.30pm-6.00pm *News*. 6.00pm-6.30pm *News*. 6.30pm-7.00pm *News*. 7.00pm-7.30pm *News*. 7.30pm-8.00pm *News*. 8.00pm-8.30pm *News*. 8.30pm-9.00pm *News*. 9.00pm-9.30pm *News*. 9.30pm-10.00pm *News*. 10.00pm-10.30pm *News*. 10.30pm-11.00pm *News*. 11.00pm-11.30pm *News*. 11.30pm-12.00pm *News*. 12.00pm-12.30pm *News*. 12.30pm-1.00pm *News*. 1.00pm-1.30pm *News*. 1.30pm-2.00pm *News*. 2.00pm-2.30pm *News*. 2.30pm-3.00pm *News*. 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Sculptor's view of Mitterrand the statesman



President Mitterrand of France, projecting his most statesman-like pose, takes time out from his presidential re-election campaign to model for the French sculptor, Daniel Druet, in the draughty setting of the Salles des Fêtes at the Elysée Palace, with a book and a radiator to

keep him company. M Mitterrand has invested 12 one-hour sittings for the bronze bust, worth £3,000, to commemorate the end of his seven-year term. During the sittings the French leader used the opportunity to catch up on reading, although his wife, aides and the family dog took

advantage of his chair-bound confinement to visit him. M Druet, who makes wax models for the Grevin Museum in Paris, has already sculpted King Hassan II of Morocco, the Pope and, hopefully not ominously for M Mitterrand, the former Egyptian leader President

Sadat. According to France's equivalent of the palace-watchers, the French head of state aged 71, is proud of his youthful looks but has enforced a strict dietary regime to reduce the fleshiness of his jowls. The French Socialist leader has been informed that a Churchillian profile

is a big handicap when his main rival for office is the trim Gaullist leader, M Jacques Chirac. Personal statistics notwithstanding, M Mitterrand is building up a substantial lead in the latest opinion polls (Photograph: Guy Le Querrec/Magnum).

Communists downhill, page 6

The Hattersley lip springs to life

Were he ever to become the feast and not the feaster, Mr Roy Hattersley might discover that his lower lip could make a perfectly substantial main course in its own right. By no means petite, and with a lumbering life of all its own, this lower lip carries much of Mr Hattersley's political conviction on, as it were, its shoulders.

While the body so cumbersome is slumped in its seat, the lower lip, protruding away, is expected to signal all types of disapproval at the government policy of the day.

Yesterday, it was hard at work expressing its dissatisfaction with Mr Douglas Hurd's statement on overcrowding in prisons. As Mr Hurd barked his way through a series of fourthly and fifthly on what he was going to do with all those prisoners Mr Hattersley could be seen staring over his gold-rimmed spectacles, fumbling through a pile of papers.

When his turn came to reply, he plopped himself in front of the Despatch Box and, pressing his pudgy finger into the air, proceeded to speak in his characteristic style, turning sentences back to front in the mistaken belief that it lends them solemnity, spluttering out an inventory of indignant adverbs.

"The Home Secretary has been far less than candid," he began, and the Tories seemed unwilling to raise a heckle, preferring to nod off gently, as if listening to a repeat broadcast on the Home Service. "His response to the crisscrossish wholly inadequate," he continued, the full weight of his body now pressed horribly against the Despatch Box.

He plopped back into his seat, placing his spectacles in his upper pocket, obviously believing himself to be Mr Robert Donat playing The Man Who Speaks the Truth, but more closely resembling Mr Terry Scott in one of his less energetic kitchen romps.

Mr Douglas Hurd seemed unaffected by Mr Hattersley's derision. Mr Hattersley would obviously know about overcrowding, he said, given the state of the current deputy leadership contest. Ho, ho, ho, went the Tories.

Again, Mr Hattersley's lower lip sprung to its master's defence, protruding itself

menacingly in the direction of the Home Secretary. Meanwhile, in the Jubilee Room of the Palace of Westminster, one of Mr Hattersley's overcrowsers, Mr John Prescott, was getting ready for a press conference.

Mr Prescott has the quick smile and bluff air of the croupier in a lunchtime casino in a run-down seaside resort. His cheery grin seems to be saying "Don't mess around with me, matey," before disappearing back into its subtly frame.

He appeared with a merry little moustachioed MP, Mr Peter Snape. They sat down together, John poured himself a glass of water, Peter said, "John Prescott will read out a prepared statement - John", and John read out his prepared statement.

John is not a terrific reader, leaving over-long pauses between each word, as if rehearsing the next in his head before committing it to the sound waves. "... and - the - political - choice - that - I - will - offer - to - the - party - will - strengthen - Neil's - leadership," his statement concluded. "Any questions?" said Peter.

He didn't accept that for one moment, no, he didn't accept that for one moment. This was the gist of his comments to the press. He wished to encourage debate. Yes, he would win. No, he didn't think it would be fair to make comment on any past deputy leader. No, he didn't want to spell out any differences. No, he couldn't say how many unions were backing him.

How his memory must have travelled back to his days as a steward on a passenger ship in the Merchant Navy. No, the cafeteria is not open, no, I don't know when it will be open, yes, I'll open some time, no, I won't tell you when, yes, I'm thoroughly delighted to be encouraging such a democratic debate.

Mr Snape had announced at the beginning that they were very sorry but John could only spare half an hour for questions. Luckily, after just 15 minutes, the questions came to an end. This left John an extra quarter of an hour for encouraging the great democratic debate.

Craig Brown

Halifax trims its rate for new mortgages to 9.8pc

By Vivien Goldsmith, Family Money Editor

The Halifax, Britain's largest building society, will cut its mortgage rate by half a percentage point to 9.8 per cent.

The new rate comes into effect tomorrow for new borrowers and from May 1 for the society's 1.5 million existing borrowers - assuming that there are no changes in base rates in the meantime.

This will bring down the payments on a £30,000 endowment mortgage from £193.13 a month to £183.75, and from £228.72 to £221.33 on a £30,000 repayment mortgage.

The Mortgage Corporation also announced yesterday that it is cutting its mortgage rate from 9.95 per cent to 9.75 per cent (10.2 per cent APR) immediately for new borrowers. The rate for existing borrowers is under review.

The high equity mortgage for the self-employed and professionals is coming down from 10.2 per cent to 10 per cent.

For the Halifax this is the first time its mortgage rate has come down below 10 per cent in almost 10 years.

It was at 11.25 per cent in May 1987 when the base rate fell from 9.5 per cent to 9 per cent. In July last year, the rate

for new borrowers went down to 10.8 per cent, but the base rate rose to 10 per cent and hopes of any mortgage cut for existing borrowers were dashed.

The rate came down to 10.3 per cent on December 1 last year and has stayed there as the base rate has bounced between 8.5 per cent and 9 per cent.

The new rate of 9.8 per cent is an annual percentage rate (APR) of 10.6 per cent for repayment mortgages and 10.4 per cent for endowment mortgages.

Mr Jim Birrell, Halifax's chief executive, who will shoulder the burden of piloting the society on its way to a public limited company, said: "This confirms our determination to offer the best combination of availability of mortgages, quality of service and competitive interest rates."

There are no plans to cut savers' rates at the moment.

The Abbey National, whose mortgage rate is 10.1 per cent, said the mortgage rate was under constant review. But its general manager, Mr John Fry, said: "We will not be taking a decision today or tomorrow. Although at the end of the day we will always

have a competitive mortgage rate."

He added that business was buoyant on both sides of the book - mortgages and savers - so the Abbey did not feel under pressure to move.

A spokesman for the Nationwide Anglia, whose mortgage rate is 10.3 per cent, said: "We would not dream of changing the rate for new borrowers without announcing a definite change for existing borrowers."

There are at least a dozen lenders whose mortgage rates are already below 10 per cent. Yorkshire Bank's rate is 9.75 per cent, Abbey Life's 9.7 per cent, Chase Manhattan Bank's 9.85 per cent, and Sumitomo Bank's and Algemeine Bank Nederland's 9.9 per cent.

But Mr Donald Black, managing director of Blay's Mortgage Guide, said he did not think there would be another big change in rates until base rates change again.

The banks have been keen to offer fixed-rate mortgages in recent months - a sure sign that they believe mortgage rates are going to drift lower. The Trustee Savings Bank has fixed-rate mortgages at 9.5 per cent, National Westminster at 9.85 per cent and Lloyds at 10 per cent.

Kinnock's rebuff for Prescott

Continued from page 1

There is no doubt about that."

But Mr Kinnock angrily attacked Mr Prescott's decision. He said that when Mr Prescott had withdrawn from the contest earlier this year he had done himself and the party a service. "He was right then. He is wrong now."

Mr Kinnock said: "The task of securing the advance of the Labour Party is not made easier by the distraction and diversion of a completely unnecessary contest for the leadership and deputy leadership."

Mr Kinnock said that the "impetus of politics" would mean that the issues on which Labour was fighting like social security and the health service were pushed more to the edge.

He conceded there was a danger that people would again say that the Labour Party was split.

Some members of the far left were predicting last night that more candidates would eventually enter the contest. If it became apparent that Mr Hattersley could not win, the pressure would grow on Mr John Smith or Mr Bryan Gould to enter the race to protect Mr Kinnock from having Mr Prescott foisted upon him, they said.

Hurd to reopen camps as prisons

Continued from page 1

● Provision of 400 remand places by reopening instead of rebuilding Ashford Remand Centre, west London;

● A programme of system-built additions to existing prisons worth 800 places.

Mr Hurd told MPs that there were 7,000 more prisoners in Britain's jails than they were designed to hold and there was severe overcrowding. It was particularly unacceptable that there were 1,400 prisoners in police cells all over south-east England and beyond, which were "wholly unsuited" to their long term accommodation.

He did not deny the claim by Mr Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Home Secretary, that the prison population could be 56,000 by next summer.

In response to questions Mr Hurd disclosed that the cost to public funds of a prison inmate was £250 per week.

In the Army camps they would cost £400 per week and in police cells £1,000 a week.

Only last July Mr Hurd had to announce a previous package of short term measures to ease the overcrowding.

The Rolleston Army camp was opened to house prisoners from August to October last year and previously in 1981 and in 1980 during a prison officers' dispute.



Troops guarding prisoners at the camps will be under the authority of prison governors (Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent, writes).

Rollestone and Alma Detention Barracks, near Canterbury, Surrey, will open in the next four to five weeks.

All three services are expected to provide personnel, with a core of 150 supervising prisoners. Other personnel will provide a back-up of medical care, guard dogs, and food.

Camps will have wiremesh fences topped with coiled barbed wire. The prisoners, especially chosen, will be of low security category.

Waldheim 'may have done deal' with Allies

Continued from page 1

by the Germans not long after Dr Waldheim himself had drawn up his interrogation report.

Dr Robert Herzstein, Professor of History at the University of South Carolina, who is publishing a book next week suggesting Dr Waldheim worked for the Americans after the war, says that several records of the British element of the UN War Crimes Commission appear to be missing from the PRO.

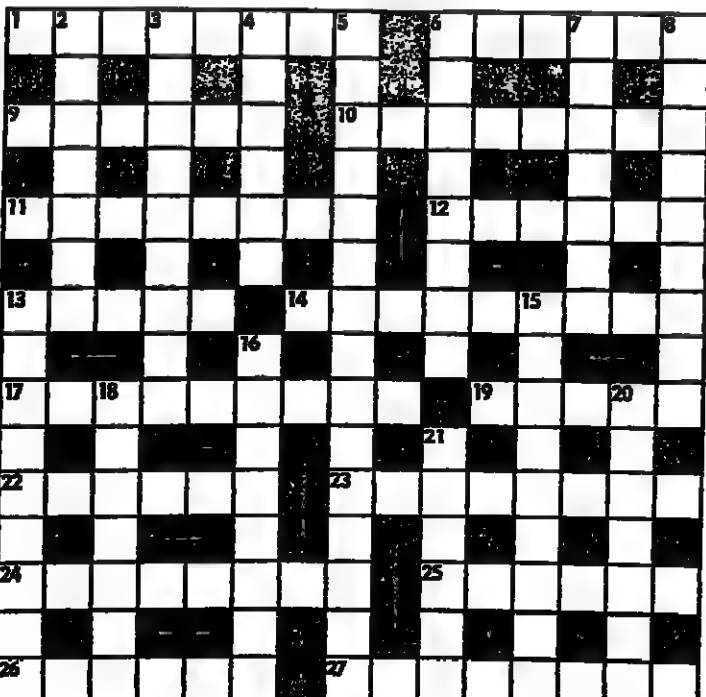
He believes that Dr Waldheim passed on large amounts of information after the war to his Allied 'de-briefers' at Bad Tolz, especially on Tito's

partisans and the ELAM and ELAS guerrillas in Greece.

Dr Norman Stone, Professor of Modern History at Oxford, suggests that the closure of documents that Dr Waldheim's wartime career, indicate that the Austrian President may indeed have worked with American intelligence after the war.

"It certainly does look as if there's something very odd," he said yesterday. "The American intelligence theory is beginning to look a bit plausible, isn't it? It's very odd - we all thought that Waldheim might have been working for the Russians."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,631



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

NELSON'S BLOOD

- a. Run
- b. Cape Trafalgar
- c. Sea spinach

MELIORISM

- a. Honey-making
- b. Hereditary left-handedness
- c. Modified optimism

SLARGANDO

- a. Rotatory lullaby
- b. Sexual slander
- c. Slowing up

NEPHROGRAM

- a. A great-aunt
- b. A photograph of clouds
- c. Kidney weight

Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,630



ACROSS

- 1 Things still not covered by this science (8).
- 6 Early letters about Mark I bomb, perhaps (6).
- 9 Appointment with a female (6).
- 10 A hamper is upset containing round jars (8).
- 11 There's no simple solution, so say it the other way round when she sneezes (8).
- 12 Wood gets two honours, the second in hearts (6).
- 13 Once more showing a profit (5).
- 14 Declare sold from floor (5,4).
- 17 False end is shot off (9).
- 19 Material for a monkey suit? (5).
- 22 No opening for country girl (6).
- 23 Assembly point for those just out of bed? (4-4).
- 24 Pie cut short to show position in the field (8).
- 25 Stroke to leg is just the ticket (6).
- 26 Why, say, replacing the last of the French detectives is a safe-guard (6).
- 27 Monotonous rhythm of local entertainment (8).

DOWN

- 2 Diamonds found on mountain a frozen asset? Not likely! (7).
- 3 Show ground (9).
- 4 Queen reported to be a handsome woman (6).
- 5 Leo and Sher Khan in standard presentation (5,3,7).
- 6 Come close to making an entrance (8).
- 7 Country where binding apprenticeships are usual? (7).
- 8 Being always together, clear note is created (9).
- 13 Slave having a lion's share of fame (9).
- 15 Prussian Navy compete in a boat race (4,5).
- 16 Impetuous, sanguinary fighting force (8).
- 18 Turner representing the spider and the fly (7).
- 20 Information from base (3-4).
- 21 In New York handled by the likes of Doolittle (6).

Concise crossword, page 11

WEATHER

Most of Britain will have a mainly dry day with some sunny spells. Some eastern parts of England and in particular East Anglia will stay rather cloudy with some rain at times. This rain will tend to die out slowly. In Northern Ireland and western Scotland cloud will thicken gradually, giving some showers later. Outlook: Unsettled and colder with rain.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Algeria	16-21	SE	1-2	0
Algeria	16-21	SE	1-2	0
Algeria	16-21	SE	1-2	0
Algeria	16-21	SE	1-2	0
Algeria	16-21	SE	1-2	0
Algeria	16-21	SE	1-2	0
Algeria	16-21	SE	1-2	0
Algeria	16-21	SE	1-2	0
Algeria	16-21	SE	1-2	0
Algeria	16-21	SE	1-2	0

AROUND BRITAIN

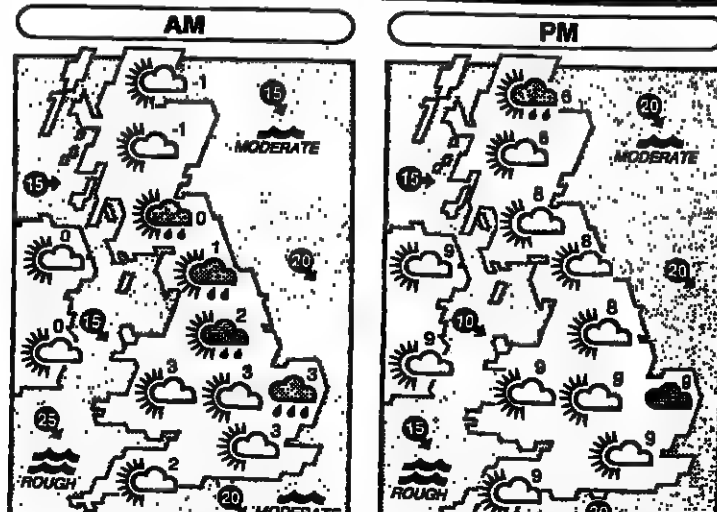
Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0

HIGH TIDES

Location	Time	Height
London Bridge	1.43	4.4
London Bridge	1.43	4.4
London Bridge	1.43	4.4
London Bridge	1.43	4.4
London Bridge	1.43	4.4
London Bridge	1.43	4.4
London Bridge	1.43	4.4
London Bridge	1.43	4.4
London Bridge	1.43	4.4
London Bridge	1.43	4.4

THE POUND

Country	Rate
Australia	2.61
Australia	2.61
Australia	2.61
Australia	2.61
Australia	2.61
Australia	2.61
Australia	2.61
Australia	2.61
Australia	2.61
Australia	2.61



Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
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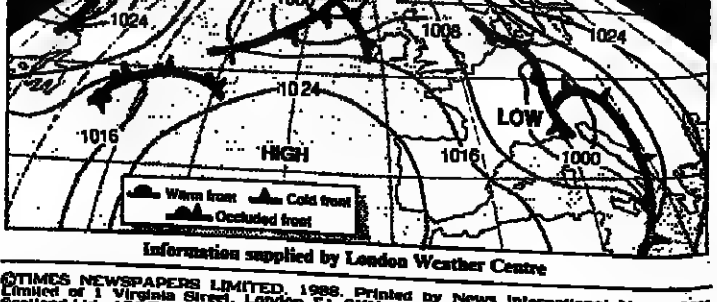
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
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London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0
London	16-21	SE	1-2	0

LIGHTING-UP TIME

Location	Time
London	8.05 pm to 6.06 am
London	8.05 pm to 6.06 am
London	8.05 pm to 6.06 am
London	8.05 pm to 6.06 am
London	8.05 pm to 6.06 am
London	8.05 pm to 6.06 am
London	8.05 pm to 6.06 am
London	8.05 pm to 6.06 am
London	8.05 pm to 6.06 am
London	8.05 pm to 6.06 am

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by London Weather Centre

PART 2

THURSDAY MARCH 31 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100
10,000

FTSE 250
10,000

FTSE 1000
10,000

FTSE 10000
10,000

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THURSDAY MARCH 31 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1398.1 (-7.5)

FT-SE 100
1756.9 (-8.2)

Bargains
37584 (34693)

USM (Datastream)
145.32 (-0.43)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8690 (same)

W German mark
3.1128 (+0.0065)

Trade-weighted
77.7 (same)

Parnes returns to US

Mr Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker, flew back to Los Angeles yesterday to be reunited with his wife and children after a brief court hearing in connection with the Guinness affair.

Mr Parnes, 42, was granted bail by Bow Street magistrates on the 19 charges he faces in connection with the case.

He was arrested by police at Heathrow on his return to Britain last week. He made no comment about the case as he departed, but indicated that he would be returning for the resumed hearings.

GRE up 15%

Guardian Royal Exchange, the composite insurance company, made pretax profits in 1987 of £165 million, a rise of 15 per cent. The underwriting loss was reduced by £15.9 million to £63.9 million and the total dividend was raised by 20.6 per cent to 41p.

Tempus, page 26

Renwick up

Renwick, the boat builder and coal trader, earned a pretax profit of £5.3 million last year — up from £4.1 million previously. Turnover was up from £32.3 million to £41.5 million. There is no dividend.

Profits jump

Clarke, Nickolls & Coombs, the property investment company, raised its pretax profits last year from £693,000 to £1.5 million. Turnover went up from £2.8 million to £6.4 million.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1989.72 (-8.82)
Tel Aviv	1989.72 (-8.82)
Nikkei Average	26320.07 (-388.88)
Hong Kong	2528.92 (+7.31)
Amsterdam	243.65 (+1.2)
Sydney	1416.4 (+20.3)
Frankfurt	1378.7 (+5.7)
Brussels	4886.2 (+34.4)
Paris CAC	287.5 (+2.2)
Zurich SCA	438.0 (+0.4)
London	
FT All-Share	904.13 (-2.95)
FT 100	992.68 (-3.18)
FT Gold Mines	237.2 (-1.0)
FT Fixed Interest	93.73 (-3.94)
FT Govt Secur	90.72 (-0.33)

Closing prices Page 26

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER	315p (+17p)
L. Joseph	437½p (+13p)
Anglo Sec	414½p (+15p)
Magnum	229½p (+12p)
Henderson Admin	655p (+10p)
Sun Alliance	894p (+10p)
Rank Organisation	498½p (+12p)
AB Elect	419p (+35p)
Stable	331½p (+12p)
Stag Furnisher	150p (+15p)
Bolly Pack	265p (+10p)
Bolly Shop	510p (+15p)
Eucalyptus Pulp	715p (+40p)
Brent Walker	350p (+15p)

FALLS

Morgan Grenfell	243½p (-12p)
Laporte	363p (-13p)
Centway	142p (-23p)
British Aerospace	390½p (-23p)
Usher Walker	250p (-20p)
Domino	308p (-18p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	8½%
3-month interbank	8½-9½%
3-month eligible bills	8½-9½%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	8½%
Federal Funds	9½%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.75-5.73%
30-year bonds	10½-10¼%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£: \$1.8690	£: \$1.8695
£: DM1.1128	£: DM1.1128
£: SfrF1.3740	£: SfrF1.3740
£: FF10.5561	£: FF10.5561
£: Yen233.72	£: Yen233.72
£: Index27.7	£: Index27.7
ECU	1.3667458
SDR	1.742110

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$454.00 PM \$453.75
close	\$454.00-\$454.50 (£243.50-244.00)
New York	
Comex	\$453.50-\$454.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May)	pm \$15.80/bbl (\$15.78)
Denotes latest trading price	

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★★★★★

Standard holds payout at 35p

Rights issue expected after losses of £274m

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Standard Chartered, the beleaguered international banking group, told a relieved stock market it would keep its dividend unchanged at 35p despite last year's pretax losses of £273.8 million.

The virtual certainty, however, of a rights issue later this year to boost the bank's weak capital position prevented the shares from rising more than 10p to 453p. Sir Peter Graham, chairman, said the decision to maintain the dividend was justified in view of a more optimistic outlook this year.

The overall loss, which came after an exceptional £519.5 million of bad debt provisions, was not as large as the stock market's worst fears. But even without the provisions, Standard's earnings deteriorated from £253.9 million to £167.6 million.

The results mean that Standard's crucial equity-to-asset ratio is 2.8 per cent, well below that of other British clearing banks. This will rise to about 3.6 per cent after the £550 million sale of Standard's US regional banking operations but Sir Peter said he hoped it would be above 5 per cent by the end of this year.

The increase would be

achieved by retentions from earnings and by other methods, such as a rights issue. But he insisted that the recent programme of asset sales had now ended and further disposals, such as Chartered Trust, were not contemplated.

He claimed that the US operations had never formed a central part of Standard's strategy which was now to concentrate on British and Far Eastern operations. Domestic operations contributed £118.4 million, 34 per cent coming from foreign exchange and other dealing operations. Far

East profits rose sharply from £900,000 to £35.5 million as economic conditions in the Pacific basin improved.

Sir Peter said that management within the bank had been strengthened, with a restructuring which included the recent departure of Mr Michael McWilliam, the chief executive. Mr Rodney Galpin, head of supervision at the Bank of England, is taking over from Sir Peter as executive chairman this year.

Credit-control systems, which last year led to heavy losses in Canada and Europe, have also been tightened up. "The present management of

the bank believe the tide has turned for Standard," Sir Peter said.

The exceptional bad-debt provision mainly covered loans to Third World countries and was at the upper end of the Bank of England's matrix guidelines. But Standard had kept provisions against its unusually high £634 million exposure in South Africa to only 5 per cent, the bottom of the matrix scale, because of its optimistic view of the country's economic position. For this reason, Standard's overall bad-debt cover was 25 per cent, lower than most other British clearers.

Sir Peter said no further provisioning was necessary in current conditions. The provisioning was made after stringent examination of the bank's loan book which unearthed substantial problems in Canada. These had now been corrected, Sir Peter said.

The fall of 40 cents in the value of the dollar during 1987 depressed profits by £72 million when overseas profits were translated into sterling. But the fluctuations substantially reduced its dollar exposure to the Third World in sterling terms and increased the value of sterling provisions.

Maxwell unveils publishing plans as MCC profits soar

By Joe Joseph

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, says he is close to buying *The Age*, Melbourne's broadsheet newspaper, from the John Fairfax publishing group of Australia. He is also pressing ahead with a libel action against an unauthorised biography by Mr Tom Bower, and hopes to have a new newspaper, *The Londoner*, on the streets later this year.

In a characteristic blur of activity, Mr Maxwell yesterday paid £17 million in cash for Ladbroke's Home and Law consumer magazines group, unveiled plans to launch colour magazines next month for two of his newspapers, the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*, and said that he was still pursuing Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, the US book publisher which spurned his advances last summer.

He also revealed that Maxwell Communication Corp-

oration, his main publishing empire, had more than doubled pretax profits to £166 million in calendar 1987, from £80.3 million. Sales grew by 91 per cent, to £884 million.

However, the group's earnings per share showed a more modest gain, of 15 per cent, to 26.7p, reflecting the 67 per cent jump in MCC's share capital triggered by last July's

annoyed by reports that the Australian authorities are less than keen to see him acquire *The Age*. "There has been a lot of nonsense and ill-informed Press speculation that I am not in the running for the Melbourne *Age*," he said. "That's about as true as some of my unauthorised biographies."

At the same time, plans are progressing for the launch of *The Londoner*. "We expect to bring out *The Londoner* just as soon as we are satisfied that our new plant is running satisfactorily and on time," he said. "Expect an announcement this summer."

Mr Maxwell says he is still pressing ahead with legal action against Mr Tom Bower and against Aurum Books, the author and publisher, respectively, of a controversial biography, *Maxwell: The Outsider*.

Cuts help United to £95.6m profit

By Joe Joseph

Benefits from the rationalization at the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* helped United Newspapers to lift profits sharply last year.

United, which also publishes magazines — including *Punch* — and regional newspapers, increased pretax profits from £56.6 million to £95.6 million in calendar 1987 on turnover up by just under £100 million to £716 million.

The figures were also buoyed by national and regional publication advertising revenue.

Extel, the news and information group bought by United last June after a bitter fight, made a first time contribution of £9.7 million.

United says it is satisfied with Extel's performance, although it admits that the sporting information services face an uphill struggle this year from growing competition in the field. But some analysts

feel that the new acquisition has not performed as well as might have been expected. Lord Stevens of Ludgate, the United chairman, reporting a 43 per cent jump in earnings per share to 36.2p, said: "The benefits of the 1986 rationalization programme at Express Newspapers helped the national newspaper division to raise its profits from £13.6 million to £33.2 million. "There will be a further 2,480 redundancies, of whom 300 departed before the year end."

Coupled with United's £127 million capital expenditure plans for new printing facilities in Manchester, Preston and London's docklands, and the new office block near Blackfriars Bridge, London, the future redundancies and retraining could land United with a bill of between £225 million and £250 million over the next three years.

Results battered by dollar orders and Airbus



Time flies: Professor Roland Smith, chairman of British Aerospace, yesterday. (Photograph: Peter Trivelp)

Bae nosedives to £159m loss

By Colin Campbell

British Aerospace shares lost 14p to 398p yesterday after Professor Roland Smith, the chairman, revealed pretax losses of £159 million in 1987 in the wake of squeezed trading margins and lower sterling receipts from aircraft deliveries.

Bae showed a £49 million tax credit for 1987 compared with a previous year's charge of £34 million, but even so the net loss for the year was £110 million compared with a previous £128 million net profit.

The greatest financial knock was a £320 million exceptional item to cover losses on the Airbus consortium and to cater for anticipated losses on

civil aircraft orders, invoiced in dollars, to 1991.

The final dividend is being raised from 11p to 11.8p a share, making a year's total payment of 18.7p a share (17.4p).

The year-end order book stood at £10.2 billion compared with £8.6 billion at the end of 1986, though trading margins deteriorated from 6.9 per cent to 5.3 per cent in 1987. At balance sheet date Bae's net liquid assets totalled £800 million.

At the trading level, Bae held steady achieving profits of £217 million, with military aircraft and support services bringing in £155 million (£146 million) and weapons and electronic systems £199 million (£140 million).

However, losses from civil aircraft rose from £8 million to £68 million last year, of which £38 million was attributable to Airbus.

Professor Smith admitted that Bae's room for manoeuvre within the framework of its Airbus interest was "very limited".

It was not good for a British company to have a stake in an organization that was run in a "loose-limbed, uncontrolled, unaccountable way," he said.

We have considerable concern and anxiety about its structure and financial arrangements, and in an attempt to make it more efficient pressure has been applied wherever possible, he added. But there was no question

that Bae would pull out of the consortium.

Bae's planned 5,000 workforce reduction will be spread across the military, dynamics, civil and other divisions.

Sir Raymond Lygo, chief executive, said it was not easy to screw down costs because the percentage of costs under Bae's direct control was low.

Group policy of covering forward a significant proportion of US dollar purchases had mitigated the worse effects of the dollar's weakness in 1987.

Bae said it had effectively given up the battle in asking Government to ease the restrictions on foreign ownership of its shares — fixed at no more than 15 per cent.

Bowater's 13.5% rise to £54.5m

By Carol Ferguson

Bowater Industries, the paper, packaging and builders' merchants group, increased its pretax profits by 13.5 per cent last year to £54.5 million, despite being hit by the strength of sterling.

However, Mr David Lyon, the group chief executive, said that given the pace of change in the company, it was fairer to look at the progress of earnings per share, which increased by 34 per cent to 36.7p. The year's dividend was increased by 25 per cent to 12.5p.

Packaging and industrial products contributed £28.5 million, amounting to 47 per cent of profits from continuing businesses. Mr Lyon said: "We have been developing products where there is a demand for higher quality and better service and the growing trend to quality helps Bowater."

On the merchanting and services side, which contributed £23.8 million to profits, he said that there was evidence that the cyclical nature of the building industry had been reduced or even disappeared.

One of the strongest parts of Bowater's business is repairs and renewals, but Mr Lyon said that he believed the loss of mortgage relief on repairs would not affect the business.

Rank deal for world video top spot

By Michael Tate

Rank Organisation is poised to become the world's largest video duplicator with the acquisition of the American BHCP group for \$120 million (£64.5 million).

In its second \$100 million-plus US deal in a month, Rank has agreed in principle to buy BHCP from its three owners — Bell & Howell, which has 40

per cent, and Columbia Pictures Entertainment and Gulf & Western's Paramount Pictures with 30 per cent each.

Rank is already the biggest video duplicator in Europe. Its Rank Video Services operation in Brentford, west London, copies films for European video distribution for Hollywood and other film companies. About 37 million

cassettes were produced for the European market last year.

Together the US and European markets are currently worth about £300 million and Mr Michael Gifford, Rank's chief executive, expects it to double in the next four or five years. "Material costs have declined, prices are down and volumes are going through the roof," he says.

SCHOOL FEES

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'Gaming Board has known about conviction since 1974'

Walker admits prison sentence

By Cliff Feltham

Mr George Walker, the former boxer, head of the multi-million pound Brent Walker leisure empire, spoke yesterday of the support he had received from the City after disclosures that he had once served a jail sentence for theft.

Mr Walker, aged 59, said the company's share price had suffered because of it, but the City institutions were "rock firm" behind him.

Before discussing his company's latest results, Mr Walker said: "You will have read of my life 33 to 34 years ago. Let me be very clear that all that information in those articles has been known to every appropriate body since the beginning of my business life. It has never been hidden. It has all been up front. There has been no chance of it being swept

under any carpet. I paid the price for that mistake and was lucky enough to learn by it. I have used it as a spur in my life since then."

He said later that he had received a two-year jail sentence for stealing nylons from the Royal Victoria Dock where he had been working after his boxing career had ended.

He served 15 months in Ford Open Prison. "Quite frankly I cannot imagine why after all this time a magazine has decided to bring all this up. Neither do I have any idea who brought it to their attention."

He did not know if the purpose of the disclosure was to discredit him with the Gaming Board in his bid to obtain a licence for a casino at the Mirabelle Restaurant.

conviction from as far back as 1974 when I took over the Curzon Casino. This business now will have no effect at all."

He reported a 190 per cent increase in the company's pretax profits for last year to take it to £20.8 million. Turnover rose by 117 per cent to nearly £71 million.

The group, which spans casinos, films, public houses, and hotels, bought eight casinos during the year.

Future plans include new hotels at the Marina, and also at Basildon, Gloucester, the Touquet, Cardiff, Couqueles in the Pas de Calais and Puerto Sherry in Spain, to give the group about 2,000 hotel bedrooms in Britain and Europe.

Shareholders collect a total dividend payout of 8p a share, an increase of 42 per cent. In the stock market the shares advanced 15p to 350p.

Profits go through the roof after Marley restructuring

By Alexandra Jackson

Marley's results for 1987, with pretax profits up 62 per cent to £55.2 million, reflect the building products group's big restructuring since 1985.

Mr George Russell, group chief executive, pointed to profits and earnings per share growth of more than 124 per cent and 118 per cent respectively over the two-year period, when sales remained virtually unchanged.

Last year, earnings rose 61 per cent to 14.2p. A final dividend of 3.35p was declared, making a total of 5p, up from 4.1p last year. Shareholders may receive shares in lieu of dividends.

"The restructuring is virtually complete," Mr Russell said yesterday, "and the shape of the business is now much as we want it. We are now ready to develop the business further. We aim to double the size of our motor components business from its present level where it contributes 10 per cent of operating profits. We are also going to capitalize on our extensive land holdings."

"Longer term, we looking to build up our overseas earnings, currently 37 per cent of operating profits. Despite current worries about the USA, we see opportunities in that market," he explained.

The US was the largest single contributor to overseas profits with acquisitions an



Bumping up motor components operations: George Russell, Marley group chief executive

important factor in the doubling of operating profits from £5 million to £10 million.

Last year was a record for capital expenditure at Marley with more than £10 million of the £53.1 million total spent on a new aerated concrete plant in Wiltshire. Marley plans to spend about £50 million in 1988, compared with £32.1 million in 1986.

Acquisitions and disposals made during the year virtually cancelled each other out at the pretax level in 1987, although

there will be a more noticeable impact from new businesses in 1988. Net borrowings as a percentage of capital employed have fallen from 26 per cent to 22 per cent.

Roof tile growth was disappointing, rising from £11 million to £12.4 million but the figure was struck after taking off £1.5 million of exceptional costs. Marley reckons its market share is about level with its main competitor, Redland, at about 42 per cent. Two thirds of this

business is exposed to markets other than new housebuilding.

Bricks and concrete blocks are now the two largest contributors to profits, with operating profits in 1987 of £13.6 million and £14.4 million respectively. Acquisitions at home and overseas contributed to this growth.

Mr Russell said work immediately after the October hurricane has not materially affected these results.

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Japan to allow bids by US firms

From David Watts, Tokyo

After two years of tough negotiation Japan has conceded some access to its construction market to the United States. But the change will not apply to European and other companies seeking contracts.

Non-American companies will have to seek access on a case by case basis, according to Mr Ichi Ochi, the minister of construction. Decisions will be based on the strength of the bidding company and the spirit of mutualism, a stipulation which will make it difficult for British companies to win contracts, as the Japanese government believes the British domestic construction bidding system to be similar to its own.

The Japanese government has already conceded access to the Kansai international airport project, but it has now gone further, to "actively encourage" the Japanese private and third sectors to allow American companies to bid on their projects. The Japanese have also indicated that American radar manufacturers will obtain preferential treatment in supplying the Kansai project.

Among the projects which the government says will now be opened to American bidders are a bridge across Tokyo bay and a new Nippon Telegraph and Telephone building.

Public works projects which will also be opened up include the third phase development of Haneda Domestic Airport in Tokyo, a new airport for Hiroshima, a new Tokyo bay expressway, a new bridge from the main island of Honshu to Shikoku, a new expressway for the Bay in western Japan, the redevelopment of Yokohama port and an academic city to be built near Osaka.

H&J Quick soars 135%

H&J Quick Group, the Manchester-based Ford main dealer, enjoyed excellent trading conditions last year, boosting profits 135 per cent to £2.934 million. Earnings per share rose 98 per cent, to 38.6p, and the total dividend doubled, to 8p. The board had decided to make a one-for-one scrip issue.

Mr Norman Quick, the chairman, said that the Ford strike had slowed progress during March. "But it was not enough to damage our performance. I am looking forward to another good year in 1988."

Standard is keeping its shareholders sweet

COMMENT David Brewerton

No point in rubbing shareholders up the wrong way if there is a rights issue around the corner, so Standard Chartered is maintaining its dividend, payable wholly out of reserves. But unless the group can push some earnings through to the bottom line in the current year, the next payment will have to go. After paying the £54.5 million dividend, there will be only £43.4 million of distributable reserves left in the balance sheet.

Sir Peter Graham, chairman of Standard Chartered until he is relieved of that onerous post by the Man from the Bank, Rodney Galpin, has a way with words even if his bank's numbers leave a lot to be desired. "It is our intention," he says, "to continue strengthening our capital ratios and the board will consider asking shareholders to participate in this at the appropriate time."

The appropriate time will not be long delayed, for the group is in dire need of better banking ratios and it would take too long to beef them up through retained profits. So once the half-year results are out of the way and assuming that the profits are heading in the right direction, shareholders are likely to be tapped for a minimum of £250 million. For that operation to stand any chance of being underwritten at a reasonable price, even with the Bank of England encouraging the institutions to support the home team, it was essential that the dividend is held, because the other pros to a rights issue, earnings and assets, have been knocked away. Earnings are negative; assets per share have plunged from 800p to 460p.

Sir Peter admitted yesterday that he and his board are keen to take action which mirrors shareholders' desires. Holders do not like being diluted, he suggested. "And you ignore shareholders' wishes at your peril." Ignoring shareholders is more perilous for Standard Chartered than for most companies and not only because the three white squares sit with their strategic stakes. Even after all the write-offs and the two United States disposals, Standard is worth more as a break-up than as a going concern.

In the immediate future, its shareholders have the enticing prospect of a recovery in profits backed by a 10 per cent dividend yield, better than a long gilt. They will also have the choice, within months, of either facing dilution or putting up new capital. But even with the new capital and the improved ratios — the aim is for an equity to asset ratio of 5 per cent compared with the current 2.8 per cent within a year — it will still be a bank that can do little more than stand still, not one that can grow. The rights money will repair the damage, not pave the way for expansion.

The market is still to be convinced that the bank is undergoing the renaissance that its restructured management claims for it. Over the past two years it has had more strategy changes than most banks go through in a decade and each one has seemed an illusion.

The strategy — since the abandonment of US regional banking which was the linchpin last year — is now to concentrate on British and Far Eastern operations. The Far East is, after all, looking somewhat healthier than it has for some time. And British earnings continue to rise, with an improvement in quality as the volatile foreign exchange dealing profits form a smaller proportion of the whole.

But even assuming that the general tightening of credit controls is effective and that Standard has sorted out the problem areas of Canada and Malaysia, it is still vulnerable to mishaps such as further increases in Latin American bad debt provisions and a further fall in the dollar against sterling. It also has a hard slog to return areas such as Europe to anything like a respectable return on assets.

Yesterday's package was about as good as the stock market could have expected. The £273.8 million pretax loss was well short of the worst estimates and the bank sounded bullish about this year's prospects. But its position is terribly fragile and a determined bidder could carry off the prize.

Halifax's half-cheer

The building societies are fighting back against the banks which have made such steady inroads into the mortgage market. The Halifax's half percentage point cut in its mortgage rate to 9.8 per cent announced yesterday makes it extremely competitive.

But the Halifax's existing borrowers, more than 1.5 million of them, should put the champagne on ice. The rate cut does not apply to them, only to new borrowers. In the effort to grab back a declining share of the mortgage market, the building societies must be in danger of alienating their loyal and trusty followers.

Halifax borrowers cannot have forgotten the fanfare which greeted the rate cut from 11.25 per cent to 10.8 per cent in July last year. New borrowers jumped aboard at the slim-line rate, but the old hands who stood patiently waiting for their turn were scuppered.

With volatile market conditions, the same could well happen again. The rather sanctimonious view from the Nationwide Anglia that it would never dream of changing rates for new borrowers without changing them for existing borrowers at the same time, may well raise a cheer. Is this the difference between a building society keen to remain a mutual with housing its primary aim and one rushing headlong for the stock market?

Weir Group slips but lifts payout

By Michael Tate

Pretax profits at Weir Group, the Glasgow engineer, slipped from £15.05 million to £13.21 million in the year to December 31, but the group maintains its profile of success.

Profits are lower because this time there is no exceptional £3.73 million profit from the sale of its stake in Yarrow and DeLaval-Weir, as there was in 1986.

Ignoring the exceptional item, earnings per share have grown again, from 14.2p to 17.8p, and the final dividend is lifted to 3.25p, making 4.5p for the year against 3.5p last time.

Purchases help lift Turriff to £2.4m

By Alexandra Jackson

Turriff Corporation, the construction and marketing services group, reported record profits up from £1.3 million to £2.4 million for 1987. Half of the advance was attributed to acquisitions.

Sales advanced by 33 per cent to £70.8 million, while earnings — after adjusting for last year's rights issue — rose from 21.2p to 30.8p. A final dividend of 6.7p was declared, making a total of 10p, up 21 per cent.

The directors have recommended a one-for-five bonus issue and intend to maintain the 1988 dividend on the

enlarged share capital.

The chairman, Mr Astley Whitall, reported that the restructuring of the group was now almost complete with many of the benefits already being reflected in the results.

Turriff plans to make strategic acquisitions to strengthen its four divisions — construction and housebuilding; international plant and equipment maintenance; plant and equipment hire and information and marketing services.

Market forecasts point to Turriff making at least £3.8 million this year. The shares rose 17p to 31.5p on the results.

Sun Life bonus up to £142m

By Alison Eadie

Sun Life Assurance, the life insurance company, made a profit after tax of £20.9 million in the year to the end of December against £17.4 million the previous year.

The total dividend was raised by 18 per cent to 33.64p.

The bonus distribution to with-profit policyholders rose to a record £142.1 million from £125.1 million.

As much as £143 million was transferred to reserves, including a £30 million earmarked for aids claims.

Funds under management totalled £5.8 billion at the year-end, a rise of 16 per cent on the year. Premium income rose 83 per cent to £950 million.

BP assurance on Kuwait holding

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Sir Peter Walters, the BP chairman, yesterday reiterated that the stake in the company built up by Kuwait should have no effect on the running of BP.

"The Kuwait Investment Office has signalled very clearly that it has no intention of seeking to exert any influence on the way BP is managed. It sees its holding purely as a long-term investment," Sir Peter said in his annual statement.

Despite the effect of the stock market collapse on the BP share offer by the Government last October — it was the slump in share prices which allowed Kuwait to step in and buy more than 22 per cent of the company — BP has doubled the number of shareholders in the past year to 600,000. Sir Peter said that the BP

Coates up 53% to top forecast

By Our City Staff

Coates Brothers, the printing inks and specialist resins group, beat by £0.5m the forecast it made last year when acquiring Lorilleux International.

It reported 1987 pretax profits up 53 per cent to £21.9 million. Earnings per share rose 64 per cent to 31.95p.

Turnover rose 8 per cent to £209 million. Gearing increased, following a £4 million acquisition in November, but remains within acceptable bounds at 20 per cent.

The profits improvement was achieved, broadly, across the whole group. Businesses included in these results for the first time added £1.2 million to profits, while a reduction in pension fund commitments added a further £0.7 million.

Cap'n Bob keeps 'em waiting

Robert Maxwell, who does not appear to care much for journalists, tolerating them, perhaps, as an unfortunate consequence of his interest in buying newspapers, very nearly succeeded in giving them the slip yet again yesterday — despite having himself invited them to his *Daily Mirror* headquarters in London, to hear the results of his Maxwell Communication Corp (the company) re-named by BPCO so that, City wags have it, he would be allowed to sport an MCC tie). Despite announcing the press conference by telephone as late as 8pm on Tuesday, Maxwell's aides must have been distressed to find so many journalists had nevertheless made it to the *Daily Mirror*'s Holborn offices by lunchtime. Maxwell then decided to test his audience's resolve by keeping the assembled hacks waiting for an hour before deigning to descend from his plush office. As the journalists amused themselves, as journalists tend to do on such occasions, by making origami elephants and playing seven-card stud poker, serious debate began among the assembled press corps as to whether a collective walk-out was the most fitting response to the great man's behaviour. Their patience was finally rewarded with a 15-minute audience with Cap'n Bob, who eventually departed as abruptly as he had arrived, muttering that he had more important business to attend to.

Sir John suits himself

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sir John Harvey-Jones, the former chairman of ICI, was wearing his Chancellor of Bradford University tie yesterday, as he made an official tour of Beane of Bradford, a local textile manufacturer and retailer. While there, he bought himself a brown, pure wool, country-style suit, at the bargain price of £89.95, and had it altered there and then. Anxious to demonstrate the

efficiency of the company's service, managing director Nicholas Beane confided — out of Sir John's earshot — that the alterations had taken a little longer than usual, because of his "difficult shape". "He has a small bottom and a small chest," Beane said, diplomatically — making no comment about the bit in the middle which is, I am afraid, rather larger.

Papal bear

Shaky world stock markets are unlikely to be helped if Vatican officials, faced with a record deficit of £32 million in 1986 and an estimated £40 million-plus in 1987, decide to liquidate some of their investments. For the first time, the

Moving on

Analyst Sonia Falaschi, ranked third in the paper and packaging sector of the latest *Institutional Investor* annual survey, is on the move. Falaschi, has, I hear, left Chase Manhattan Securities, to join Phillips & Drew. As if to assure P&D that it has made a wise choice, the same survey commends Falaschi for "sound research" and "great understanding" of industry trends and company players.

Caviar porridge

The only enclosure around the prison where convicted insider dealer Ivan Boesky is spending his three-year jail sentence comprises fragrant roses and eucalyptus trees. Lompoc, 50 miles from Santa Barbara, California, is known as the "country club" prison, and counts rock star Chuck Berry and Watergate's HR Haldeman among its famous former inmates. Work for its 630 prisoners, all serving three to five-year terms for non-violent drug crimes, tax evasion, embezzlement, fraud or forgery, is not too strenuous — a shift in the prison furniture factory or on its dairy farm. Afterwards, they can unwind and keep fit by playing tennis or softball, or run on the jogging track. Alternatively, they can while away a few hours in the sunshine on the golf driving range, built a few years ago by the prisoners themselves. And, when relatives come to visit, there is even a picnic area, complete with shading awnings. According to the unarmed guards, only about one inmate a month strolls away. But Lompoc officials insist that the prison is not a holiday camp. "It's wrong to say Lompoc prisoners are doing time by playing tennis," says Chuck LaRoe, executive assistant to the warden. "Many people incorrectly expect prisons to have a dungeon atmosphere, but recreation only follows a full day's work." Boesky, however, is no doubt relieved to discover that times have changed.

Carol Leonard

Last year, our business performance was anything but leisurely.

Marina flats selling fast

Walker makes for Goldcrest

Leisure group

Brent Walker starts £90m bid

Walker acquires BRENT WALKER AT LE TOUQUET

Brent Walker's casino

	1987 £m	1986 £m	% Change
Turnover	70.9	32.7	+117%
Profit before tax	20.8	7.2	+190%
Earnings per ordinary share	30.57p	13.64p	+124%
Dividend per ordinary share	8p	5.63p	+42%
Shareholders' funds	227.4	58.7	+280%

BRENT WALKER STARTS RAPID GROWTH PROJECT

As our latest financial results demonstrate, our approach to leisure is working, and working well.

1987 was a year of considerable acquisitions, most notably the Trocadero and Island Sites, the Le Touquet Leisure Development, the Metropole Group of Casinos, and the Puerto Sherry marina complex.

We also strengthened all aspects of our business, building on the previous year's successes. The results reflect this with a 117% increase in turnover, from £32.7 million to £70.9 million. Pre-tax profits have risen substantially by 190% to £20.8 million, with Earnings Per Share up from 13.64 pence to 30.57 pence, an increase of 124%.

And our balance sheet has been further strengthened, with shareholders' funds increased to £227.4 million.

This success places the Group in a sound position for the coming year, optimism that's reflected in our Chairman's statement: "I am pleased to report that the picture is becoming healthier month by month and year by year."

Full details of the Group's activities can be found in our Review of Operations, available from The Company Secretary, The Brent Walker Group PLC, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB.

Who said you can't mix business and pleasure.

THE BRENT WALKER GROUP

WORKING FOR PLEASURE

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

British Syphon lifts profits to £4.2m

British Syphon Industries, the manufacturing company based in Cheshire, has made an excellent start to the current year, says Mr Bryan Morrall, the chairman. He adds that the board is confident that further substantial growth can be achieved from existing operations.

He reported a rise in profits to £2.83 million in 1987 against £2.76 million in the previous 12 months. The profits would have been £296,000 higher but for a provision against a bad debt in the paper-making division. This arose in January 1988, after the end of the group's financial year. Sales advanced to £136 million against a restated figure of £113 million. Earnings per share were 10p, compared with the previous 7.5p. Shareholders will receive a final dividend of 2.66p per share, making a total for the year of 4.5p. This compares with a total of 4p per share in the previous year.

MY Holdings Arcoelectric up to £2.7m brightens

MY Holdings, the packaging and consumer goods group, is poised for further acquisitions following a year in which pretax profits rose by 31 per cent to £2.77 million. Group turnover in the year ended December was £37.1 million against £30.7 million. The final dividend of 1.05p a share makes a total of 1.50p for the year, a 20 per cent rise.

More O'Ferrall ahead

Strong growth in poster advertising helped More O'Ferrall to lift taxable profits from £5.9 million to £7.7 million in calendar 1987 on turnover of £38.3 million. The outdoor advertising group — which recently unveiled plans to bring Western-style advertising poster sheets to Taiwan, where outdoor advertisements are still largely hand-painted — now plans further investment both in Britain and France to keep up its growth momentum.

The company is still reaping the benefits from its £3 million investment in new boarding and Adshel sites two years ago, which were kept busy during last year's general election. Earnings per share grew from 13p to 18.5p. A final dividend of 5.4p makes 7.2p for the year, 2p up on 1986.

Spear fails to reach target Bluebird buys Merit Toys

JW Spear, the toys and games maker, failed to achieve its target of restoring pretax profits to their 1985 level of £884,000 during the year ended December 31. Profits for 1987 were £380,000 — below even the 1986 level of £511,000. Earnings per share were down sharply to 5.69p against 7.33p, but the board maintained a total dividend of 6p.

Relyon rises to £3.9m

Relyon, the bedding manufacturer, has reported a 47 per cent rise in profits for last year and told shareholders that strong trading continued through the first three months of the current year. The board said it had every confidence in prospects. Sales rose from £25.7 million to £31.2 million while pretax profits moved ahead to £3.93 million, compared with £2.68 million in the previous 12 months. Operating profit rose to £3.44 million from £2.46 million. Interest receivable and similar income were up to £541,375 from £229,608. Earnings per share emerged 53 per cent higher at 16.41p per share and shareholders are to receive a final dividend of 3.25p per share, making a full-year total of 4.90p compared with 3.97p previously.

Crash-hit electrical group eyes merger

By John Bell City Editor

Ealing Electro-Optics, one of the market's favourite high-flying stocks of last year, returned to earth with a bump yesterday when the group spelled out the damage done by the collapse in share prices last October.

The market melt-down effectively put a sudden end to the group's ambitious plans to expand rapidly by acquisition.

The group's shares soared to 225p last August on the back of an offer of 154p per share in cash from Sagemill, a private company representing the interests of Mr Sandy Saunders and two other executives.

The offer was made in order to comply with the Takeover Panel's rules after Sagemill acquired a 29.9 per cent stake with a view to using Ealing Electro-Optics as a vehicle for expansion in the bull market conditions of the time.

The crash came less than two months later before the ambitious plans had materialized into worthwhile action. Yesterday Ealing shares were hanging hands at a mere 51p, having risen from 43p on relief that the full-year statement was no worse than feared.

Profits collapsed last year to just £68,000, against £1.27 million in 1986. Shareholders suffered a sharp cut in dividend and the management admitted that the company's future as an independent concern may soon be over.

The board told shareholders that after the market collapse it was no longer practical to pursue aggressive growth through acquisitions.

The board has been discussing a possible merger or co-operation with other companies. There were no firm proposals being negotiated at present, but a further announcement would be made if circumstances changed, said the board.

Meanwhile, the company intends to concentrate on trading activities which would increase the group's share of the electro-optical market. Orders improved during the first months of the current year. Overhead expenses, especially in the US, had been trimmed.

The board is confident of a satisfactory performance this year.

The company is paying a final dividend of 0.8p per share, making a total of 1.5p compared with the previous 12-month total of 2.2p.

Phillips & Drew forecasts inflation and sterling crisis

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The chances of a sterling crisis and double-digit base rates this year are "uncomfortably high," according to the latest economic forecasts from Phillips & Drew, the broker.

The firm's April *Economic Forecasts*, published today, says that it is no longer clear that the economy will slow down gracefully, averting balance of payments worries.

Mr Bill Martin, chief United Kingdom economist at the broker, said that it is no longer plausible to ascribe last year's strong growth in the economy to a supply-side revolution.

"The suspicion must be that

in the period since the election domestic demand has been growing at 6 per cent — twice Britain's productive potential and up to twice demand growth in the rest of the world," the report says.

"This strong demand growth is a threat to inflation, and, thanks to firm sterling, quite lethal for the balance of payments. Were the present rate of demand growth and level of sterling to persist, we calculate that the current account deficit would rise from £1.5 billion in 1987 to £8 billion in 1988 and to £16 billion in 1989.

"Such deficits are clearly

unsustainable — long before they emerged, sterling would crack, inflation would rise and policy would have to be tightened."

Phillips & Drew's central forecast is that growth will slow and the current account deficit will be limited to £5.3 billion this year. But, they give a warning that: "For a soft landing, domestic demand growth probably has to halve. But a slowdown on this scale is far from assured."

The overheating debate has continued in the City in the wake of the £4 billion of tax cuts announced in the Budget, and the £1.56 billion current

account deficit recorded in the first two months of the year.

The Governor of the Bank of England said this week that the pace of demand in the economy had slowed from its strong levels of the second half of last year. But the evidence for this is so far limited.

The drop in unemployment this year has been slower than the latter part of 1987, but retail sales and average earnings have continued strong.

The mortgage rate cut announced by the Halifax Building Society could, if it triggers a round of rate reductions, add to consumer spending.

Boddington flat at £14.46m

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

Boddington Group, the brewer based in the North-west, has brought in unexciting full-year results with turnover up 4.5 per cent and pretax profits rising by less than 1 per cent.

But there are signs of improvement on several fronts, with a marked rise in trading profits in the second half and diversifications starting to make profit contributions.

In the year there were rationalization costs of £3.3 million to absorb and the company had been hit by a sluggish regional economy. As a brewer best known for its traditional ales, Boddington is still struggling to climb aboard the lager bandwagon.

A final dividend of 2.5p will be paid, making the full year 3.97p, against 3.7p.

Pretax profits for the year to January were £14.46 million against £14.42 million. But for exceptional items such as the costs of rationalization, including closure of a bottling operation in Liverpool, the profit would have shown a 4 per cent rise. The company did benefit from £1.04 million in a settlement concerning claims for spending on the brewery's public houses.

Earnings per share after tax



"Repositioning for the future": Ewart Boddington

were 11.63p, a 7.4 per cent rise on 1986.

Trading profit for the year was up 6.3 per cent but in the second half the underlying profit rose to 10.3 per cent.

Mr Ewart Boddington, the chairman, said: "A significant improvement in trading performance and profitability was seen in the second half.

We are in a difficult trading area, we are repositioning the business for the future and building up management. I think the results, considering everything, are satisfactory."

Asked if being under the Whitebread "umbrella" was a real protection against a hostile takeover bid, Mr Boddington said: "There is some sense

of security but you have to perform if you are to remain independent. That we intend to do."

Whitbread is the biggest single investor in Boddington, with a near-30 per cent stake. Boddington family holdings are down to 3 per cent or less in a company capitalized at £140 million.

Decline in the North-west market was easing, according to Mr Hubert Reid, managing director. Boddington beer sales were down 3.5 per cent in the first half of the year but later were less than 2 per cent down. In the larger sector, Boddington increased sales by 9 per cent in 1987, outpacing average market growth.

Diversifications by Boddington include an 80 per cent holding in Village Leisure Hotels — a deal completed in mid-1987 — which has two hotels open at Hyde and Prestwich, with another due to open at Cheadle in March next year, all of them in the North-west. There has already been some profit contribution from the hotels.

A public house restaurant chain called Henry's Table is also being built up with plans to add bedroom accommodation where possible. There are 12 outlets so far, expected to rise to 19 by the year-end.

Sharp rise for AG Stanley

By Our City Editor

AG Stanley, the DIY products group which trades under the FADS, Decor 8 and Home Charm banners, raised profits by 64 per cent last year. The group has more than doubled its high street stores chain since the start of last year.

Mr Malcolm Stanley, the chairman, said that the year had ended on a satisfactory note. Profits had advanced to £5.28 million, compared with £3.21 million in the previous year, on sales 29 per cent higher at £84 million. Earnings per share also rose sharply, to 11.04p, a gain of 46 per cent.

The group had strengthened its trading position with two important acquisitions. The purchase of Jaco in August had added a further 179 stores to the group's chain, which had numbered 207 at the start of 1987.

In February, Stanley completed a further strengthening of its distribution network, with the acquisition of 129 Home Charm stores from the Harris Queensway group. The acquisitions, and the closure of a number of smaller sites, have left Stanley with 509 outlets.

Mr Stanley said that trading in the first 11 weeks of the

current year has shown an 11.5 per cent increase in sales.

The group's wallpaper mill had full order books, and would have another successful year, he said. The Budget changes had increased the disposable income of most taxpayers, and abolished tax relief for home improvement loans, he added. "We are in the decorative rather than the construction side of the trade, and we believe that we can only benefit from the changes," Mr Stanley said.

A final dividend of 2.1p per share is being paid, making a total of 3.75p for the full year.

Portals' 19-year run of rises ends

By Colin Campbell

A 19-year run of increasing profits has ended for Portals Holdings, the banknote paper-maker in which the Bank of England has a 28 per cent stake.

Pretax profits for the year ended December fell from £25 million to £21.1 million.

The company — in which Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, recently acquired a 3.4 per cent stake — admits to a disappointing year.

Paper-making profits fell from £12.5 million to £7.9 million, and those from water treatment eased from £7.49 million to £5.29 million.

However, the final dividend is being raised from 5.75p to 6.2p a share, making 9.1p (8.5p) for the year.

Group turnover in 1987 fell from £212.8 million to £200 million, and Portals ended its financial year with net cash and deposits of £28 million. Net asset value was 175p a share at year-end, compared with 159p a year earlier.

The group lists an extraordinary loss provision of £4.83 million, to cover its US mill disposal.

Albert Martin reaches £2m

Albert Martin, the Nottinghamshire clothing manufacturer and supplier to most of the high street stores, in particular Marks and Spencer, raised pretax profits by 18 per cent in 1987 to £2.08 million.

Earnings were fractionally higher, at 12.0p a share, against 11.9p, after adjusting for last year's £5 million rights issue and shareholders collect a 2.8p final dividend, making 4.2p for the year, against 3.9p.

Payout boost by Boustead

Boustead, the international trading group with manufacturing and distribution operations in Britain, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei, boosted pretax profits from £380,000 to £1.3 million last year.

Shareholders collect a total dividend of 0.5p a share, up from 0.1p. The group, where Mr Michael Noakes, a former BTR divisional director, has taken over as chief executive, expects to make acquisitions during this year.

Gibbs & Dandy tops £1 million

Gibbs & Dandy, the Luton builders merchant, lifted pretax profits above £1 million for the first time in 1987, making £1.04 million against £808,000.

Earnings per share are up from 5.8p to 7.6p and the board is paying a 1.6p final dividend, making 2.6p a share for the year, against 2p in 1986.



GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE PRELIMINARY RESULTS

A year of overall progress

Highlights of the Year

- ★ Record profits before and after tax
- ★ Improved underwriting result despite U.K. windstorm
- ★ Strong progress by Life Department
- ★ Dividend up by 20.6%

Summary of Results

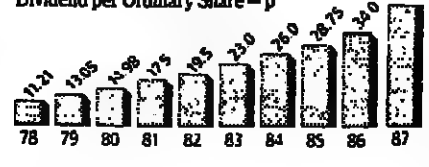
	1987	1986
Premiums —	£m	£m
short-term business	1,448.6	1,518.5
long-term business	693.2	626.9
	2,141.8	2,145.4
Investment income	204.1	202.0
Underwriting results —		
short-term business	(63.9)	(79.8)
long-term business	24.8	21.6
Profit before taxation	165.0	143.8
Taxation and minorities	57.3	42.1
Profit attributable to shareholders	107.7	101.7
Earnings per share	67.2p	63.6p
Dividend per share	41.0p	34.0p
Shareholders' funds	£1,086.8m	£1,130.1m

Results by Territories (before taxation)

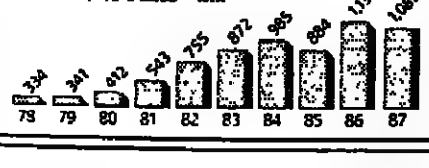
	1987			1986		
	Net Premiums	Underwriting Result	Investment Income	Net Premiums	Underwriting Result	Investment Income
Australia	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Canada	113.1	(7.5)	13.0	130.2	(10.1)	13.2
Germany	231.7	(17.2)	27.9	243.3	(18.3)	27.2
U.K.	595.2	(11.0)	92.0	563.5	(22.3)	83.4
U.S.A.	114.8	1.2	14.8	160.3	(3.9)	19.2
Miscellaneous	321.5	(18.3)	42.0	333.0	(10.5)	43.3
	1,448.6	(63.9)	204.1	1,518.5	(79.8)	202.0

Ten Years of Progress

Dividend per Ordinary Share — p



Shareholders' Funds — £m



Cheung Kong advances by 23% to HK\$1.58bn

Mr Li Ka-shing, the Hong Kong magnate, yesterday announced that after-tax profits of his Cheung Kong property empire had risen by 23 per cent to HK\$1.58 billion (£110 million) during the year to December 31.

Mr Li, one of the Crown Colony's richest men, said Cheung Kong was "continuing its policy of conservative expansion, taking advantage of good investment opportunities to enlarge its land bank".

He went on: "The property market in Hong Kong dropped slightly after the October stock market crash."

"However, because of the

prevailing historically low mortgage rates, almost full employment and the increase in wages, property prices have started to stabilize since the beginning of 1988, and the good demand for well-located medium and small residential units should continue through the year," he added.

A final dividend of 16 cents per share lifts the total to 22 cents, a rise of 47 per cent over 1986.

Earlier, Mr Li announced that profits of his Hutchison Whampoa company, which is almost 40 per cent owned by Cheung Kong, had increased by 15 per cent to HK\$1.85 billion.

CAP and Sema-Metra to merge operations

Paris (AFP) — CAP Group, of Britain, and Sema-Metra, of France, are to merge into a computer service company which will be incorporated in Britain.

M Pierre Bonelli, the chairman of Sema-Metra, said yesterday, that the new group will be called Sema-cap.

It will be Europe's second-largest computer service supplier after France's Cap Gemini Sogeti, with expected sales of FF2.98 billion (£281 million) and profits of FF144 million.

The main shareholders and the French Finance Ministry

have approved the deal which will be carried out by an exchange of 24 CAP shares for each Sema-Metra share.

After the exchange, Sema-Metra shareholders will own 54.6 per cent of the new group, while CAP holders will control 45.4 per cent.

Sema-cap will be listed on the London Stock Exchange and will apply for listing on the Paris Bourse.

Sema-Metra had sales of FF1.45 billion last year while CAP Group expects sales of at least £94 million for the year ended in April.

Ennex strikes Scottish gold

Ennex International, the Dublin mining company claims to have found the first "substantial" gold and silver deposit in Scotland, north-west of Glasgow at Conish.

Ennex has drilled 26 holes and calculated an ore reserve of 525,000 tons, containing 0.22 ounces of gold and 1.67 ounces of silver per ton.

It plans further drilling in the next three months and has applied for planning permission to carry out underground exploration.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Crds	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Moore & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Citibank NA	8.50%

STANDARD CHARTERED PLC 1987 RESULTS

The Directors announce the results of Standard Chartered Group for 1987, as follows:

	1987	1986
	£ million	£ million
Trading profit before charge for bad and doubtful debts	382.1	394.4
Charge for bad and doubtful debts	(233.6)	(184.2)
Share of associated companies	128.5	210.2
Profit before exceptional items	167.6	253.9
Exceptional items:		
Charge for cross border debts	(519.5)	—
Surplus on disposals of premises	88.9	—
Reorganisation costs	(10.8)	—
Profit/(loss) before taxation	(273.8)	253.9
Taxation:		
United Kingdom	37.4	(13.0)
Overseas	(83.0)	(72.8)
Share of associated companies	(14.6)	(10.5)
	(60.2)	(96.3)
Minority interests	(334.0)	157.6
Earnings	(344.5)	151.0
Extraordinary items	(60.4)	(8.7)
Profit/(loss) attributable to members of the company	(404.9)	142.3
Dividends: Interim	(19.5)	(19.5)
Final	(35.0)	(35.0)
Amount retained/(deficit)	(459.4)	87.8
Earnings per share:		
Before exceptional items	33.8p	97.0p
After exceptional items	(221.3p)	97.0p

Dividend: The Directors will recommend at the Annual General Meeting on 12th May 1988, a final dividend of 22.5 pence per share making a total distribution for 1987 of 35.0 pence per share. The final dividend will be paid on 20th May 1988 to shareholders on the register on 21st April 1988.

The information in this announcement does not constitute full accounts within the meaning of Section 254 of the Companies Act 1985. Full accounts containing an unaudited audit report will be posted to shareholders on 18th April 1988. Copies will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies in accordance with Section 241 of the Companies Act 1985.

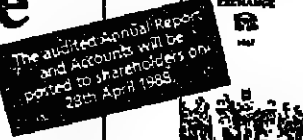
Standard Chartered PLC, 38 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4DE.

Standard Chartered



Guardian Royal Exchange

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Service and protection - worldwide




THE ROYAL

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THE ROYAL

THE ROYAL



LIFE AT THE SHARP END.

Whether you're in the air or on the
 battlefield, Germany doesn't let
 the men and women we need out
 there. And women who work in factories
 defending our airspace all around the
 globe.

Today we're at the sharp end of
 the war against the Axis.

THE ROYAL

1-24-68

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

As the RAF reaches 70, a look at its breathtaking pace of development



The Tornado, a result of collaboration between Britain, West Germany and Italy, and a vital part of the RAF. Right: young recruits in training

The peak of front-line flying



The Royal Air Force today is better equipped than it has ever been. A massive re-equipment programme has been under way for several years and despite some setbacks and delays, there is a feeling of confidence in the RAF that it can fulfil today's demanding roles. One of the greatest threats to the security of Britain and the Nato Alliance is from conventional air attack.

So the RAF, like its counterparts in other Nato countries, has had to keep up with the latest technological developments to produce operational aircraft that will act as a major deterrent to the Warsaw Pact. Maintaining a technological edge over the Soviet Union is itself a significant deterrent. But this has required a huge investment.

Tornado, the result of a highly successful collaborative programme involving Britain, West Germany and Italy, is at the heart of the

RAF's restructuring. The offensive version, the Tornado GR1, which has replaced the Vulcan, Canberra and ultimately the Buccaneer, has largely re-equipped the designated wings in England and West Germany.

However it is a sombre thought that in the same period that Tornado has been developed and brought into service, the Soviet Union has produced five new fighter types, the Su-24 Fencer, with an all-weather, low-altitude capability, the Su-25 Frogfoot ground-attack aircraft, the MiG-29 Fulcrum, the Su-27 Flanker and the MiG-31 Foxhound.

Looking back over 70 years, the changes in aeronautics have been breathtaking. Equipment today is so complex and the rate of technological progress so rapid that the role of the RAF's jet-fighter pilots has changed dramatically.

Over the years their job has become more and more technically demanding. The RAF has always been proud of its fliers. The quality

of the men chosen to fly Britain's front-line combat aircraft has never been higher.

As Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, commander-in-chief of RAF Strike Command, said in a lecture on the future of air power: "Providing the right equipment for the future is essential but it is only part of the challenge ahead."

"Ensuring that we have the right number of people and, in particular, the right quality is even more important. We must be prepared to invest both money and resources in our people if air power is to succeed."

Again a glance at the main landmarks over the last 70 years, since the RAF was formed with the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service, illustrates the way aircraft design has been tailored to meet the growing challenges. In the 1920s it was the change to metal structures. In the 1940s it was the jet engine. In the present generation the most dramatic developments have been in avionics and flight systems,

together with guided weapons. And, of course, the significant move from high-level to low-level flying in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The RAF is a huge, complex organization, employing 93,700 people, including 6,300 women, with an aircraft inventory of about 600 combat aircraft and 160 helicopters.

It supports the pillars of British defence policy, providing air defence for the UK, a significant theatre nuclear force in Europe, a powerful tactical force in West Germany, units for the early reinforcement of the Northern Region and maritime units in the Eastern Atlantic and Channel.

The RAF also provides air-lift helicopter support for all three armed services.

As the Falklands conflict showed in 1982, the RAF must have more than flexibility. It has to have range, whether it is for an "out-of-area" operation or within the Nato area. Mid-air refuelling has become the by-word in air power since the Falklands.

Despite the encouraging political signs in the Soviet Union of openness and co-operation, particularly on arms control, shown by the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, British military commanders, such as Air Marshal Sir Anthony Skingley, commander-in-chief of RAF Germany, are only too aware that the threat level has not changed at all.

The Russians still have more troops, tanks and aircraft than they need for a defensive strategy and new equipment is being introduced all the time.

So the RAF's front-line units in Germany retain a strong counter-offensive capability. The Tornado is equipped with the new JP233 counter-runway weapon; later this year the ageing Harrier GR3, which demonstrated such a revolutionary capability when it was first deployed, will start to be replaced by the new Harrier GR5, for offensive support of the army.

Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

Leader of the young jet-set



Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig: "We're an all-volunteer force"

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Craig, Chief of the Air Staff and later this year to become Chief of the Defence Staff, acknowledges that he expects much of the young aircrew who are training to fly the RAF's sophisticated high-tech fighter aircraft, both in the defence of Britain and over Nato's front line, writes Michael Evans. Flair and skill have to be matched with commitment and dedication.

One of his biggest challenges is to retain the young pilots and navigators in whom the RAF has invested so much money.

He commented: "Loyalty to the service is a very important element. We're an all-volunteer force. But when he comes in, having spent a lot of money on training, we're anxious to keep him."

The defence budget is under more pressure than for many years because of the huge cost of new equipment. Air Chief Marshal Craig admits that he is "stretched" to meet all the RAF's manpower and aircraft requirements.

His task has been helped by the introduction of new equipment, especially the Tornado. "I've been very fortunate," he said. "We've been going through a period of modernization and modest expansion."

The RAF's re-equipment programme has taken a long time. Air Chief Marshal Craig said: "It was in the early 1970s that we recognized that we had to deal with the conventional air threat to this country. It has taken us since then, the best part of two decades, to get from a conceptual appreciation that we needed to do something about it, actually to getting the hardware and the people into the front line. Ten years ago, the UK air defence ground environment (the net-

work of radars, communications and control facilities that provide the directions for the UK air defences) was very much in the planning stage. We're now in the actual implementation phase."

"Tornado has been a great success for Britain. Moreover, high-capability weapons like the JP233 counter-runway weapon have made an enormous difference and are very much part of the re-equipment programme."

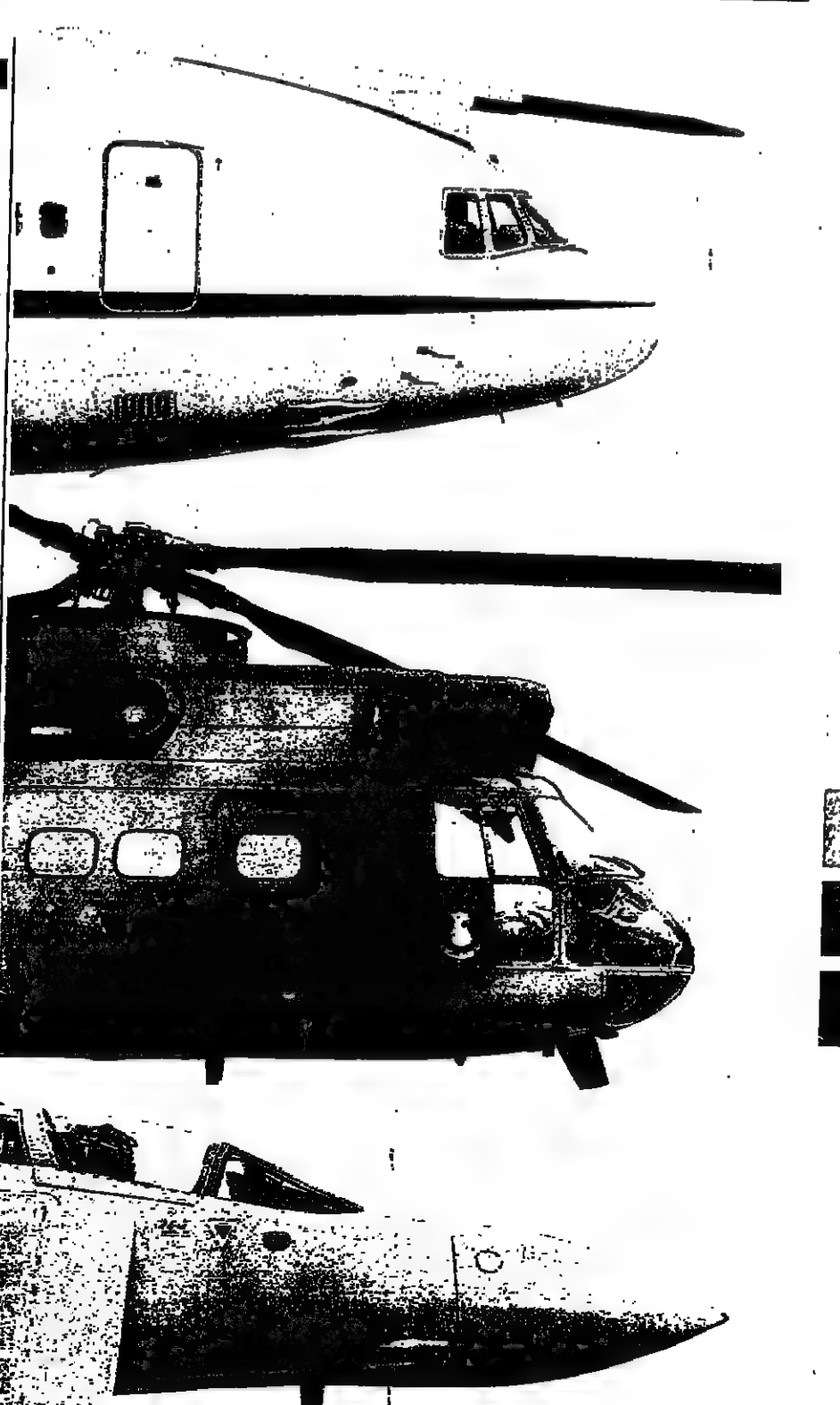
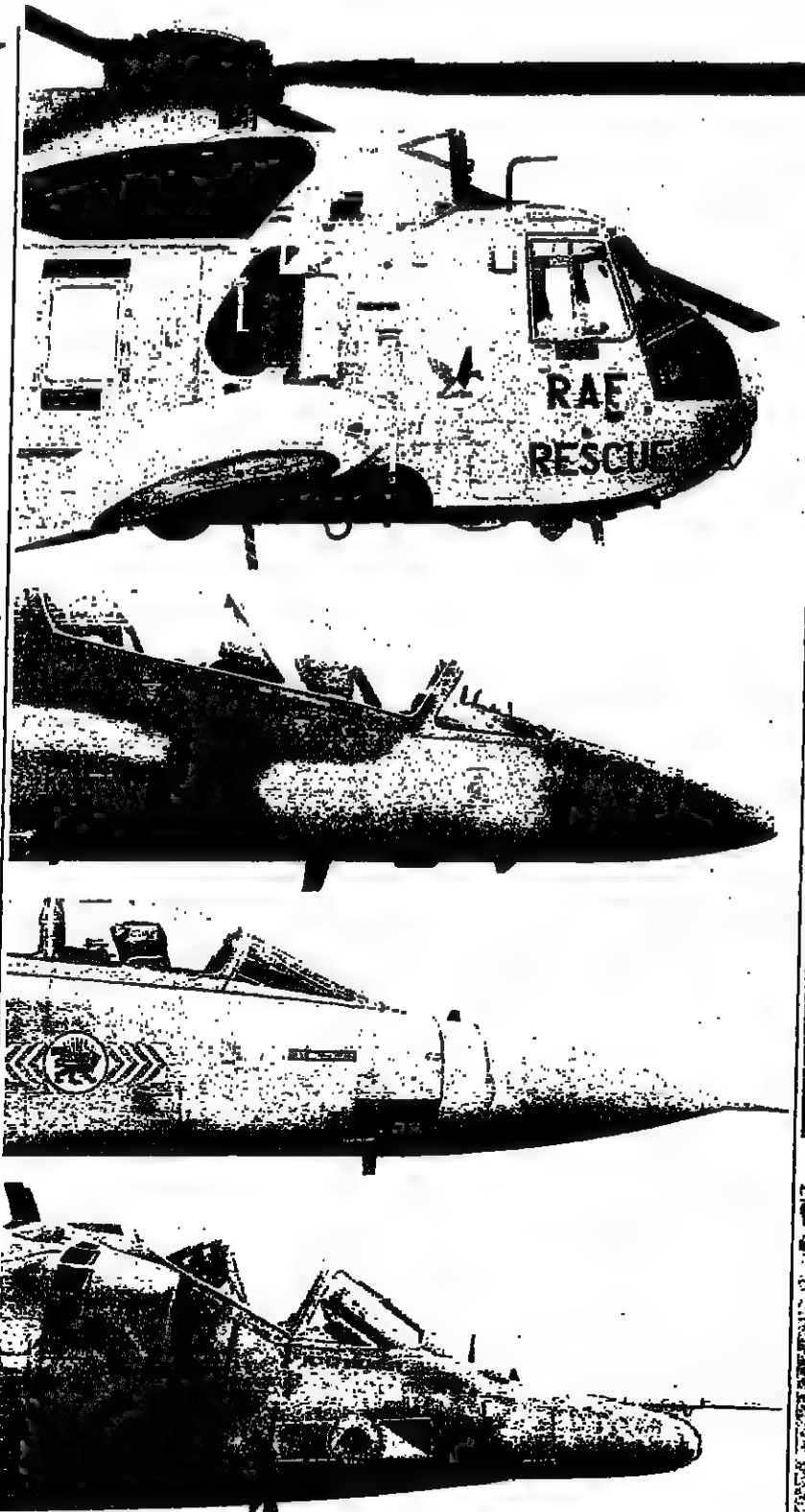
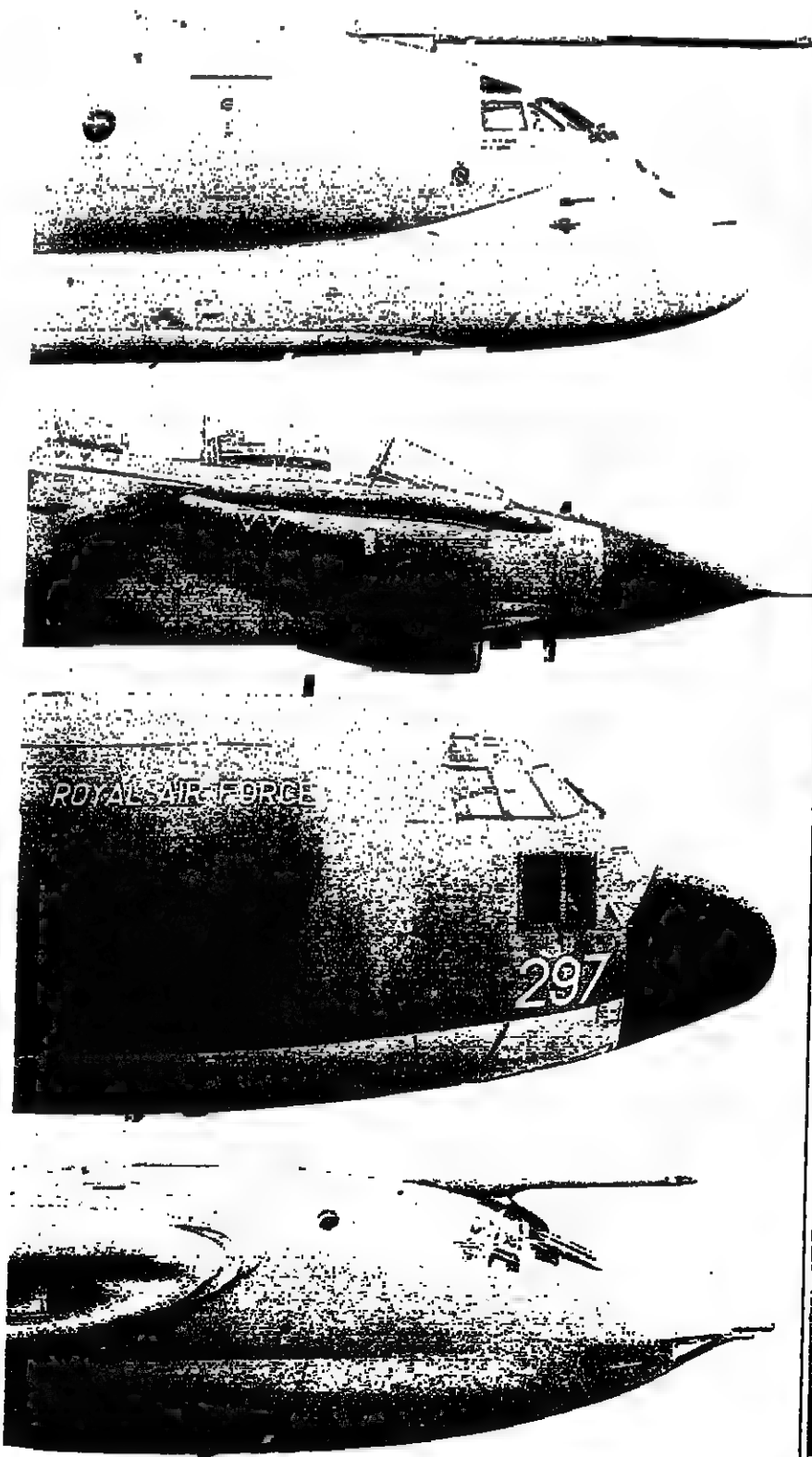
Another example of long-term planning is the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA). Air Chief Marshal Craig said: "We're looking for an aircraft which will give us an air-superiority capability, which the rest of the inventory at the moment lacks."

"EFA is designed to meet that and in time will replace the Jaguar in the ground-attack role. I'm very confident with the amount of work, not only that we have done, but also with the other collaborative partners, that we will have a very robust aircraft."

"It was a new venture and it has brought crews from the three nations together at a fairly young age. We shall hope to do the same with EFA."

On the controversial issue of low flying, Air Chief Marshal Craig commented: "We recognize that low flying is a nuisance and we're not in business to be more of a nuisance than we have to be to prepare for our operational role."

"As it is, we limit not only the amount of low flying but the speed and the heights."



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RAFOFFICER

Front end of a famous fighting force

RAF Germany is the front end of the Air Force's contribution to the security of both the UK and Nato, writes Michael Evans. Thirteen per cent of RAF manpower — 11,000 uniformed personnel — are stationed there. Deployed at four large operational bases, all hardened and protected, they represent a key part of the combined allied air force in Europe and are more closely integrated into Nato than any other part of the RAF.

To underline the importance of the RAF's presence on the Central Front, the Commander-in-Chief of RAF Germany, Air Marshal Sir Anthony Skingsley, has a dual responsibility. He is also commander of the 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force, which consists of squadrons from the UK, US, West Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. So apart from Tornados and Harriers, he has under his command American F-15 Eagles and Dutch and Belgian F-16 Fighting Falcons.

The Air Marshal said: "I believe we are an effective deterrent to the Warsaw Pact. We are here to dissuade the Soviets from the use of force as a threat. They have an enormous conventional force but we have a good capability and we take the view that the Warsaw Pact would not consider an advance into the central region unless they felt confident that they could win control in the air."

The air forces of the five nations under Air Marshal Skingsley's command cover about 60,000 square miles of land and sea between the inner German border and the Franco-Belgian border. Their aircraft regularly exercise together to coordinate training and tactics. They also land at each other's airfields to allow ground

crews to become used to servicing various types of aircraft.

Air Marshal Skingsley hopes to get his first GR5s later this year. He also admits that on the air-defence side, the existing two squadrons of Phantoms are getting old. But their replacement, the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA), to be built in a collaborative programme by Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain, will not be in service until the 1990s.

Air Marshal Skingsley works from RAF Germany's Rheindahlen headquarters. He has adjoining offices with his army counterpart, General Sir Brian Kenny, commander-in-chief, British Army of the Rhine (BAOR). There is no such thing as a separate land and air concept.

The four RAF operational bases, where the strike/attack, reconnaissance and air-defence aircraft and support helicopters are located, are at Bruggen, Gutersloh, Laarbruch and Wildenrath. All the airfields are guarded by RAF Regiment squadrons, equipped with Rapier surface-to-air missiles.

RAF Bruggen, which was completed in 1953, lies on the German/Dutch border and is now the home of four Tornado squadrons.

RAF Gutersloh, 80 miles from the East German border, provides close air support for the 1st British Corps, with two squadrons of Harrier GR3s, one squadron of Puma tactical transport helicopters and Chinook medium-lift helicopters of 18 Squadron, ca-

pable of carrying up to 44 troops and their equipment. The base also acts as the main troop airhead for British Forces Germany.

RAF Laarbruch, opened in 1954, has three Tornado squadrons and one of reconnaissance Jaguars. RAF Wildenrath, opened in 1952, is nearest to the headquarters at Rheindahlen and is the home of two squadrons of Phantom FGR2 air defence fighters.

Also based at Wildenrath is RAF Germany's communications squadron, which is being re-equipped with Andovers, although there are still two of the older piston-engine Pembroke aircraft.

Apart from the four operational bases, there is also RAF Gatow, the air terminal for the British sector of Berlin.

The RAF also has its own hospital at Wegberg, near Rheindahlen, which has 230 beds ready for immediate use and can provide another 200 in an emergency.

Air Marshal Skingsley, a pilot himself with experience of command in Germany — he was commander of RAF Laarbruch in 1975 — summed up the RAF's contribution in West Germany.

"I have very professional and mature people under my command," he said. "They are a disciplined and well-motivated force. The morale is also good because they are part of an effective modern Air Force."

The crews of the Tornados know that they are flying the best aircraft of its kind in the world.



Air Marshal Sir Anthony Skingsley: dual responsibility

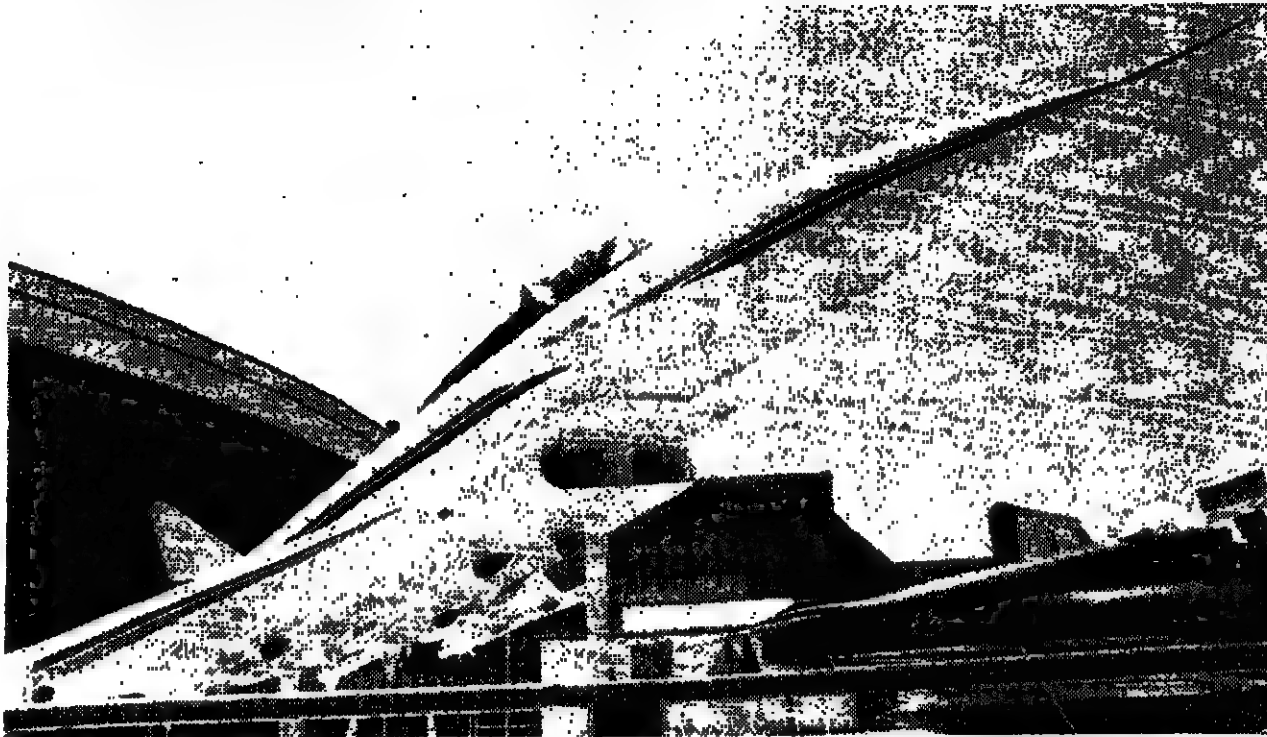
Threat of new Soviet lethal planes

The constant task of keeping the Royal Air Force up to date with both equipment and training, calls for the sort of forward planning recognized, surprisingly enough, by those facing similar demands in repertory theatre.

Apart from the obvious differences between the two professions, putting on this week's performance is just part of the on-going programme for the rep actor. It has to be fitted in with rehearsals for next week's presentation, while reading the script for the show to follow that.

In much the same way, as the RAF operates its fleets of proven combat aircraft, they are being supplemented by newer-technology jets. And plans are also well under way for tomorrow's replacements. In particular the EFA (European Fighter Aircraft). As with the supersonic Tornado — already in RAF service in the ADV fighter/interceptor role as well as a GR1 ground/attack bomber — the £20 billion EFA programme is a consortium linking both British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce with European planemakers and aero-engine manufacturers.

West Germany's Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, Aeritalia of Italy, and CASA of



The twin-engine European Fighter Aircraft 800 will go to four European air forces — up to 250 of them for the RAF

Spain make up the EFA air-frame partnership which expects to build 800 of the twin-engine fighters for the air forces of each of the four member nations — with up to 250 for the RAF. The same British, German and Italian companies have already demonstrated how such a partnership can work.

They are close to completing the order for 800-plus Tornados for their three air forces and German Navy with exports, including those to Saudi Arabia and Jordan, bringing total orders to more than 940.

The RAF's 220 Tornado GR1s are in service with nine squadrons in Germany and two in the UK. And half of the 165 ADV fighter types which will eventually equip eight squadrons in the UK, have now been delivered.

The Mach 1.8 (1,200 mph-

plus) EFA fighter will complement the Tornado ADV, armed with Skyflash radar-homing air-to-air missiles in its interceptor role, just as the Spitfire did the Hurricane as the two faced up to the Battle of Britain, believe RAF chiefs. Though the most frequent Soviet aircraft encountered almost daily by RAF Tornados and Phantom fighters is the ageing propeller-driven Tupolev Tu-95 "Bear", UK and Nato air defence has to be geared to the threat of much more lethal jets. Like the Sukhoi Su-24 swing-wing bomber, Nato code-named "Fencer". With a speed of Mach 2.18 (close to 1,460 mph) the Su-24, which can deliver nuclear weapons among its air-to-surface missiles, has a "hit-to-kill" range with 6,615 lbs of weapons and external tanks of 800 miles.

A newer type Tupolev, designed as a successor to the M-

4 "Blison" and Tu-95 "Bear" is "Blackjack", a four-jet Mach 2 bomber with a range topping 4,000 miles and able to carry cruise missiles or a mix of missiles and standard bombs.

New levels of technology and engineering are also reflected in the MiG-29 air superiority fighter with twice the speed of sound, and dubbed "Fulcrum" by Nato. Its performance as well as appearance is reputed to be similar to that of the US F/A-18 Hornet.

Apart from replacing the RAF's long-serving Lightning fighters, Tornado ADVs are gradually taking over from some Phantoms also. But Buccaneers, another of the long-serving campaigners among the RAF's 600 or so combat aircraft, have been undergoing a £40 million update. Some of the sixty S-2A/Bs, with improved avionics, armaments —

including Sea Eagle anti-ship missiles — and other new gear, are assigned with two squadrons in the maritime role.

Nimrod, also greatly involved in the RAF's maritime presence, lives up to its name as the Mighty Hunter in the reconnaissance and submarine search role. Updates for most of the 34-fleet of the type derived from the Comet jetliner, have provided air-to-air refuelling probes. And weapons include Sidewinder air-to-air missiles for self defence, Sting Ray torpedoes and Harpoon anti-ship missiles.

In the FGA (fighter ground-attack) role, five squadrons help provide further front line strike power, three with Harrier GR3/4 V/STOL or jump-jet, and two squadrons of Jaguars. A further 62 of the new Harrier GR5 type are on order for the RAF. The Royal Navy, with three dozen Sea Harriers, is adding a further nine of the V/STOLs to its three squadrons.

A follow-on supersonic Harrier, which would double the speed of existing types, is expected to be flying by the late 1990s. Engine-makers Rolls-Royce have signed an agreement with their US opposite numbers Pratt and Whitney to jointly study the technology requirements for the planned 1,000 mph-plus jump-jet. Apart from the Hawk's role in teaching advanced flying training, most of the 120 twin-jets — among them those operating from the tactical weapons unit — can be equipped with sidewinders. This also makes the Hawk the jet type used by the Red Arrows acrobatic team, a useful back up combat aircraft.

One-time V-bomber, the Victor's vital new role is as an in-flight tanker, along with former airliner types, the Tristar and VC-10.

RAF squadrons with fleets of Chinook, Sea King, Puma and Wessex helicopters include two assigned to Search and Rescue — five flights with Wessex HC-2 and four with Sea King HAR-3. And when turned out in an emergency, downed pilots have been known to greet them as "the most beautiful aircraft ever made".

Frank Robson

Secret success story of the air-travel world

One of Britain's biggest airlines — with a fleet three times the size of British Caledonian — has its headquarters in the unlikely setting of the Wiltshire town of Upavon.

The air line, known affectionately as Crabbair, has three main bases, at Lyneham, Brize Norton and Northolt. Not only does it carry 140,000 passengers a year on its own network of scheduled and ad hoc "charter" routes, it arranges for other airlines to carry another 275,000 passengers in its name.

Technically it is known as the Air Transport Force, a modern development of Transport Command. Part of Strike Command, it is run on a day-to-day basis by No.1 Group at Upavon. Its fleet consists of 60 Hercules, 13 VC10s, 12 HS 125s, nine Tristars, four Andovers and two British Aerospace 146s.

Well over 6,000 men and women are "employed" directly by Crabbair. About the same number work in the background — providing ground-movement facilities.

The Truckies, the Air Transport staff who run this unusual airline, not only provide all the flights to ferry the British military to their training grounds and operational bases around the world, but when space is available fly families out to visit their husbands serving overseas. And they must be ever ready to take part in providing the

three services may want. This may not always involve carrying passengers. The Hercules is the ideal aircraft to lift heavy cargoes to be carried to reinforce units anywhere in the world, either by para-dropping them or by the plane's unique short-landing and take-off capability.

The Hercules joined the RAF in 1966 and became the work-horse of the four main Hercules squadrons. As well as making regular scheduled flights to the Falklands, the Hercules fly as regular as any civilian scheduled airline to Gibraltar, Cyprus, Belize and Sardinia.

About half the Hercules force has also been converted by lengthening the fuselage so they can carry an astonishing 171.5 cubic metres of cargo. They are able to carry four Land Rovers and three trailers in one lift.

The Hercules have also been fitted with refuelling probes to enable them to stay in the air and make non-stop flights from Ascension Island to the Falklands. Some Hercules crews have stayed on board for up to 28 hours on one hop. In the normal transport role, the Hercules can carry up to 92 fully equipped troops and 62 paratroops can jump from the rear of the aircraft.

At Brize Norton, home of the VC10 fleet, there are check-in desks and ticketing staff, airport lounges and bars not dissimilar to those found

allocation committee which studies the "bids" made by each of the three services, then tries to fit them into the VC10s crowded programme. As well as the regular troop and family flights, the VC10s also provide vital exercise flying alongside the strike aircraft as the crews constantly improve their ability to operate the jets in both war and peace.

At Northolt are the 12 HS 125 executive jets used to fly VIPs such as government ministers and senior officers free of the problems of security in busy civilian airports.

Perhaps the proudest addition to the RAF's transport fleet is the BAe 146, two of which have been bought specifically for the Queen's Flight.

These British designed and built four-engine jets are now looked after and flown by the 175 officers and men of the prestige unit based at Benson near Oxford.

With the remaining propeller drive Andovers the Flight is at the call of the Royal Family and can also be used by visiting heads of state or the Prime Minister. In their distinctive red white and blue the aircraft are always given priority in the airways and are designed not only as a convenient, fast and most important safe, vehicle for transporting the Sovereign on official business but also as a way of showing the British flag at its best around the world. The capability of the transport force was revolutionized almost overnight in 1982 when the Falklands war showed the importance of a long-range plane capable of being refuelled in the air, of giving fuel, of carrying troops thousands of miles without stopping and of lifting vast quantities of supplies. The Ministry of Defence began to search the world for an aircraft which could fulfil these roles and began detailed discussions with McDonnell Douglas to buy KC10 "Extender" tankers. But the defence budget was already stretched to breaking point. Fortunately an alternative was immediately available: British Airways found it had six Lockheed L1011 Tri-stars it did not really want and were and was able to sell them to the RAF. Two years later three more became available from Pan Am, enabling a powerful force of nine to be added to the fleet.

Each was stripped down and modified to enable them to be used in any of the roles which might be required. They have since been widely and effectively used all over the world.

Even with this huge fleet there is always a demand for more seats than the RAF can provide, so civilian airlines such as Britannia and British Caledonian are regularly chartered to shuttle families, troops and freight to West Germany, Hong Kong or any other military base where they may be needed.

Harvey Elliott



Gun in hand, a soldier checks in for a Royal Air Force flight

In most big airports, since they entered RAF service, the VC10s have been strengthened so they can take heavy pallets of ammunition and other military supplies with ease through a door.

Their role is to link all the many bases around the world with passengers flying in comfort in the rear-facing seats. They make regular scheduled runs from cities as far apart as Washington and Hong Kong. They have also made appearances in almost every country. Some have been converted so they can be both suppliers and receivers of fuel in flight.

Getting a seat on a VC10 depends on the monthly meeting of the tri-service transport-

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Three million pounds to fly Tornado

It is hard to imagine how a 21-year-old who has just had £3 million spent on training him for his job can be unassuming. But ask him how much it has cost to make him a front-line Tornado pilot, and he is likely to ask if you follow cricket.

That is another team game in which it is hard to succeed on your own, it will be pointed out. The navigator, who also makes up the crew in both the GR1 ground-attack and ADV fighter versions of Tornado, plays a vital role, too.

Just as with Phantoms, Buccaneers and other high-performance jets, the two-man crew depend greatly on each other. The dependence on others does not stop there. As with other RAF aircraft from Harrier jump-jets and Jaguars to helicopters and multi-engine types like Tristar and Hercules, the ground-back-up is immense.

Engineers, mechanics and air traffic controllers are just some among more than a hundred trades and branches that provide the professional skill behind the RAF's front line cutting edge. From weapons technicians, who also service life-saving ejector seats, to carpenters and fitters. And from teachers and engineers to doctors and administrators.

It is hardly surprising, of course, that the £3 million cost of training an RAF Tornado pilot to the point where he is able to join one of the GR1 or ADV squadrons in West Germany and the UK, should come in for special interest.

His training to take charge of the £18 million swing-wing twin-jet, with a speed topping 1,400 mph, would have started three years earlier, after his success at the Officers and Aircrew Section Centre (OASC) at Biggin Hill.

With other young men and women seeking commissions in flying or in other branches, he will have satisfied the strict medical and educational standards set by the Air Board at

the famous former Battle of Britain air base.

Women joining the RAF, either as officers or non-commissioned, are fully integrated with their male counterparts — except in those trades which are, or could be, combatant, or where physical strength is a requirement. Women fly as load-masters and stewards. The many vital ground tasks they share with the men include that of fighter controller, using high-technology radar and computerized equipment to direct fighter crews to engage possibly hostile intruding aircraft.

The RAF does not disguise that one of the premier tasks of the OASC at Biggin is to find "fast jet pilots". Both pilot and navigator candidates must have a minimum of five GCE O-levels at Grade C, including English language and maths or acceptable equivalent. Pilots have to be between 17½ and 24 on entry; navigators 17½ to 26.

Those selected for direct-entry flying training will be among about 1,200 officers

"We prefer people who enjoy the force"

entering the RAF annually. This compares with about 6,000 airmen and airwomen. (Total RAF strength is about 93,500 — including 6,000 women.)

Qualities of leadership, aptitude, and natural sense of timing are looked for in particular among pilot applicants. Also coordination of eyes, hands and feet, and the ability to handle constantly-changing information.

Many of those not selected as pilots or navigators accept commissions in other branches. Air Commodore Des Richard, director of recruiting for the RAF, said that aircrew are expected to stay in the RAF for 12 years, although there is



Pumas, working in squadrons that also comprise the Chinook, Sea King and Wessex.

an option to leave after eight. He added: "We prefer people who enjoy the RAF — so they want to stay."

But the RAF and the taxpayer facing that bill of almost £3 million to train a top pilot, and about £1 million for Tornado navigators and multi-engine aircraft and helicopter pilots, select carefully.

Initial training of all officers is common, with 18 weeks at the RAF college Cranwell, Lincolnshire. From there trainee pilots spend four months flying the prop-driven Chipmunk at the Elementary Flying Training School at Swindon, Lincolnshire. About 80 per cent are chosen to continue pilot training and move either to RAF Basic Flying Training Schools at Cranwell, or to Church Fenton or Linton-on-Ouse, both in Yorkshire.

Here they switch to Jet Provost trainers, soon to be replaced by the new turbo-prop Tucano which, though driven by a propeller, provides a jet-like performance. The RAF is getting 130 of the economic-to-operate Brazilian-designed trainers, built to a special British specification by the Belfast plantmakers, Shorts. This includes an improved speed performance at low level from an uprated Garrett TPE331-12B engine.

It is when trainee pilots are about midway through their 47-weeks of Jet Provost/Tucano basic flying that they are divided into three groups. From here they are streamed for either high-performance jets, including Tornado; for multi-engine-aircraft such as Tristar, VC10s, Hercules and Nimrods or for helicopters. Pilots chosen for Tornado move to Advanced Flying Training School at Valley, near Holyhead, to spend 22 weeks on the British Aerospace Hawk twin-seat jet. If they successfully complete that training, they get their wings.

Then each pilot moves to a tactical weapons unit at Brawdy in Dyfed or Chivenor, in Devon, where he learns to use an aircraft as a weapon. Finally comes the introduction to Tornado, during 12 weeks at the tri-national Operational Conversion Unit at RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire. This is where he converts — along with German and Italian fliers, whose air forces also operate Tornado — to the powerful multi-role jet.

After those three years of intense training, and with a £3 million investment strapped with him into his pilot seat, he is finally welcomed to his prestige flying job with one of the RAF's Tornado squadrons.

Frank Robson

Repaying the debt

The debt we owe "The Few" of the Battle of Britain is recalled most consistently in the high profile of the Royal Air Force Association, and its associated charity, the RAF Benevolent Fund, writes John Crossland.

Thus the project decided on to mark their contribution to the coming 50th anniversary celebrations of the battle is most appropriate. It is to convert the birthplace of Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, C-in-C of Fighter Command in the battle, St Ninian's at Moffat in Dumfriesshire, to flats for RAF veterans and their dependants.

For the first time the two associations are combining their resources for an appeal, in this case for £1 million.

But as Air Chief Marshal Sir Alasdair Stedman, the fund's controller, points out, the sheltered-housing appeal is only a small part of a huge operation which has had to cope with a doubling of the calls on its resources in 10 years — a leap from £2 million to £100 million.

The fund, which distributed £1½ million to 6,900 cases in 1977, as an example, runs two residential homes of its own.

How Jacqui plays hide and seek with the Bear

Russian Bears, sneaking in to penetrate the United Kingdom Air Defence Region (UKADR), tend not to hang about once intercepted by RAF Tornado or Phantom fighters, writes Frank Robson.

The mission of Soviet crews in the intruding Tupolev Tu-95 maritime-reconnaissance planes is to probe the area of the UKADR region to the North and East of Britain. Several times a week they test to see how precisely and quickly they are detected by Nato's air-defence system.

Britain's Air defence is a chain with many separate but essential links, several of which have been undergoing upgrading replacements. When pounced on, the Soviet fliers usually decide there is not a lot of point in remaining where their huge bomber-type Tupolevs, Nato code-name Bear-Ds, are distinctly unwelcome. Because once intercepted, their task of putting the RAF reaction to the test has been done. Only when it becomes clear they are heading back to their Murmansk base do they escape the close shadowing of the British supersonic fighters.

But with three or four similar encounters every week off Britain's northern approaches, the chances are that Ivan and comrades will be back next day or the day after. Alternatively, a Norwegian, American or some other Nato fighter will be scrambled to see off a Bear, or a Tupolev Tu-16 "Badger" twin-jet bomber or another type of Soviet plane.

In the jargon of the men and women manning Britain's Air Defence system, an intruder will "pop up on the console". It means that from the time an unidentified blip appears on an RAF fighter controller's radar screen, someone like Flight Lieutenant David Wise has what he calls "a minute or two" to confirm what it is. As track production officer at his previous posting at RAF Buchan, his ultimate task was the defence of the northern approaches. That meant his over-seeing all monitoring activity in an area which could exceed 10,000 square miles. If an alert-triggering blip is a

plane which cannot be identified, a fighter is scrambled immediately from an airfield best placed for the speediest interception: possibly a Tornado ADV, one of the 1,400-mph air-defence variant super-jets which entered service last year and are based at RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire.

Half of the RAF's 165 new ADVs have now been delivered. The rest will eventually re-equip two Lightning squadrons and seven Phantom squadrons for the air defence of the UK, and to protect Britain's and Nato's northern and western approaches.

Two squadrons will be based at Leuchars in Scotland, plus another two and an OCU (operational conversion unit) at Coningsby, and three at Leeming, Yorkshire.

The swing-wing, twin-engine two-seat ADV was de-

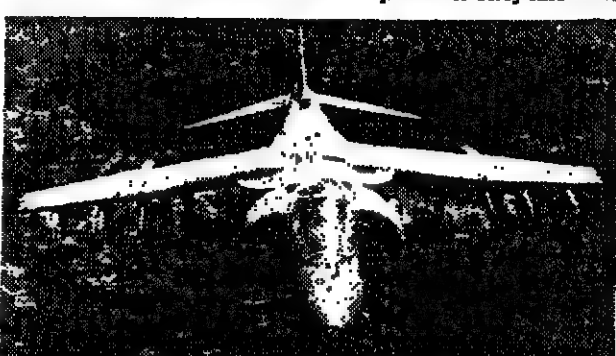
veloped for its fighter role from the same basic aircraft as the Tornado GR1, the interdiction-strike bomber, about 220 of which are serving with nine RAF squadrons in West Germany and the UK.

contact position, with the pilot and navigator also using their aircraft's own radar to track the intruder.

The crews of 8 Squadron's ageing Shackletons of near World War 2 vintage have performed marvels in helping keep up an airborne early warning cover as the long-delayed AEW Nimrod failed to come into service because of its inadequate radar.

But delivery to the RAF starting in 1991 of six Boeing E3 AWACS (airborne warning and control system) jets will help expand and improve UKADR's radar umbrella.

The Soviets are aware their chances of prolonging a game of hide and seek with the RAF or other Nato planes will greatly diminish once the RAF adds its AWACS fleet to that already in service with Nato partners. They know too



The Harrier: jump-jet that gives the RAF a great advantage

loped for its fighter role from the same basic aircraft as the Tornado GR1, the interdiction-strike bomber, about 220 of which are serving with nine RAF squadrons in West Germany and the UK.

Apart from the new fighter's long-range capability, sorties can be further extended by air-to-air refuelling from VC10 and Tristar tankers. Nato and UK radars scan from the Shetlands to Cyprus. They enable British fighter controllers, backed by a team more skilled and better-equipped than ever, to direct the two-man Tornado crew to find a potentially hostile aircraft without them needing to squander time in searching.

Intercept controllers such as Flying Officer Jacqui Mellor will talk a fighter crew into

that in a war situation the same Fighter Control alert leading to fighter scrambles when Bear bombers appear as an unidentified blip, would touch off a further chain reaction.

The countdown would start for the launch of Bloodhound surface-to-air missiles before an enemy plane could cross the British coast. Backing up Britain's bolstered missile defences are the Rapier guarding airbases and other vital areas.

During the hundreds of intercepts of their aircraft Russian aircrews, clearly following orders, have tended to act responsibly by remaining in international air space, even though in the UK Air Defence Region.

A Harrier GR3 of the Royal Air Force. Harrier, designed and built by British Aerospace and powered by a Rolls Royce Pegasus engine is the world's first and only successful V/STOL combat aircraft.



ONE GREAT FORCE

British Aerospace and Rolls Royce salute the Royal Air Force on their 70th Anniversary.



Flair puts Italy into the top five

The synthesis of technology and tradition have combined to create areas in which Italy is now leading the world, writes Peter Nichols

The Italian record in advanced technology is in many ways exactly what would be expected of a country made up in sociological terms, to use Mussolini's famous definition, of poets, saints and navigators.

An Italian journalist interviewing Kenneth Galbraith on the future of the Italian economy asked the famous oracle whether the Italians should rely on the big industrial groups or smaller firms. His reply was very simple: the size of the company does not matter so long as the product is in some way beautiful.

The saints are of course the hard working researchers in a variety of high technological fields who face formidable difficulties both in terms of relatively small sums available to support their efforts, and bureaucratic obstacles.

Even though an Italian — Galileo — invented experimental science, the modern scientist is expected, if he stays in Italy, to show the flair which the nation is famous for, as much as capacity for patient trial and error.

Certainly, as far as high technology is concerned, the Italians have a very respectable record and it might be as well to define immediately the fields in which they should not be underrated.

Much of what has been done is a natural consequence of the restructuring and modernization of Italian industry throughout the mid-1970s.

In the words of Umberto Colombo, chairman of the National Agency for Nuclear and Alternative Energy (ENEA), which also has an important role in promoting the use of technology in traditional industrial fields: "Restructuring has reinforced Italy's strong presence in robotics, advanced machine tools and automation technologies, and increasingly in flexible manufacturing systems and computer-integrated manufacturing where

we now rank among the world's top five countries."

In fact in machine tools Italy retains a balance of payments surplus. There is good Italian representation in the field of advanced equipment for particular tasks over a wide range — the timber industry, ceramics, textiles and packaging.

The city of Bergamo alone produces about a fifth of the world's shuttleless rapier looms, while in the field of laser application to intelligent manufacturing, Italy is paying much attention to what is seen to be the key area of high power lasers where ENEA is taking the leading role.

Perhaps because Italy has a particular awareness of the frustrations caused by public services which function badly, Italian industry is playing a notable part in providing equipment for modernizing Europe's public sector infrastructure.

The Selenia group has taken a large share of the market in automation for mail sorting. Italian robotics range from advanced mobile robots for public safety uses to an underwater robot developed in collaboration with Ferranti in Britain, while ENEA's LIDAR carbon dioxide optical laser system for remote sensing of sources of air pollution is due to be used in Rome.

The air force's national museum beside Lake Bracciano indicates clearly enough that the present success of the aerospace industry is based on a history of ingenuity in a field which, in the past, could not be sustained by Italy's own limited resources: highly advanced but early jet aircraft for instance.

This fundamental difficulty has now been solved by a series of international agreements and joint ventures. The state-owned Aeritalia, for instance, pulled off the unusual feat of making essential parts in its factories near Naples for aircraft produced both

by Boeing and by its rival, McDonnell Douglas, apart from collaboration with the French Aerospatiale which is nearer home.

Arms production is becoming an increasingly controversial subject as far as public opinion is concerned but there can be no doubt that the defence industry is able to compete with products ranging from Beretta pistols, now issued to the FBI, to fast patrol boats. Selenia, once again, exports more than half its weapons systems — guidance systems, flight control, underwater defences, seek-and-destroy systems, air-to-air missiles.

Advanced electrical engineering, electronics and information technologies have their highpoints. The famous transformation of Olivetti from a failing typewriter manufacturer into one of the world's leaders in the production of personal computers, and eighth among the world's information technologies companies. The state-owned Ansaldo is now Europe's biggest designer and producer of both normal and superconducting magnets while Pirelli is a major producer of traditional and superoptic cables.

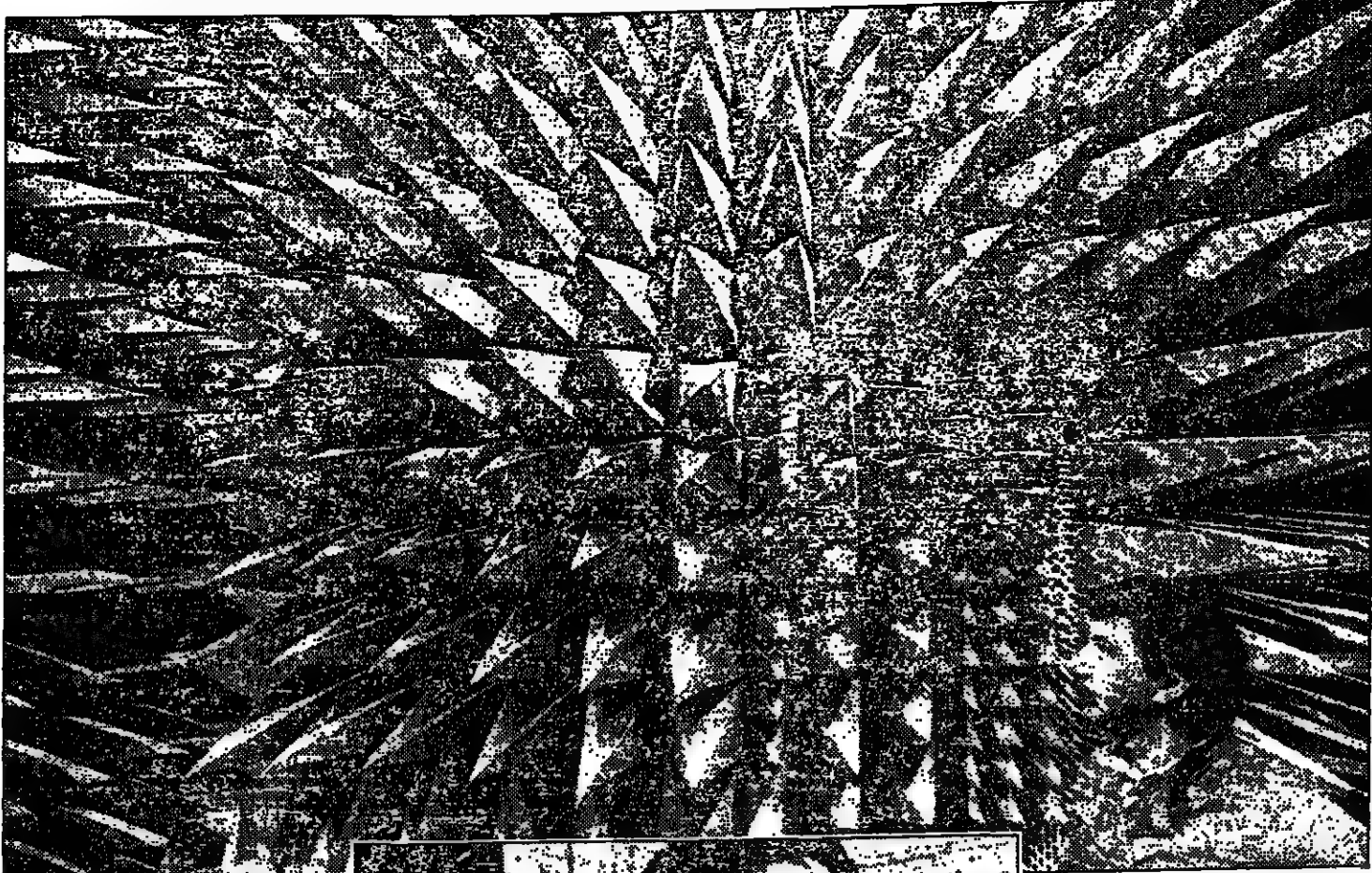
Experience in electronics has given the Italians a firm position in producing components for nuclear magnetic resonance devices.

These are some of the fields in which Italy is seen to be well abreast in technological achievement. Geographically, too, there are growing concentrations of technological effort.

Turin, in the north-east, and much of northern Piedmont, is by far the most important of them. Fiat which is based in Turin uses more than one half of all the robots at work in Italy and is an exporter of robotics.

The area is named "Technocity" by the Agnelli Foundation which has issued a series of reports on development in this concentration of advanced industry.

Something which may develop into another such pole, though smaller, is the north-east around Trieste and Udine, which also happens to be the region in which



INSIDE PAGES

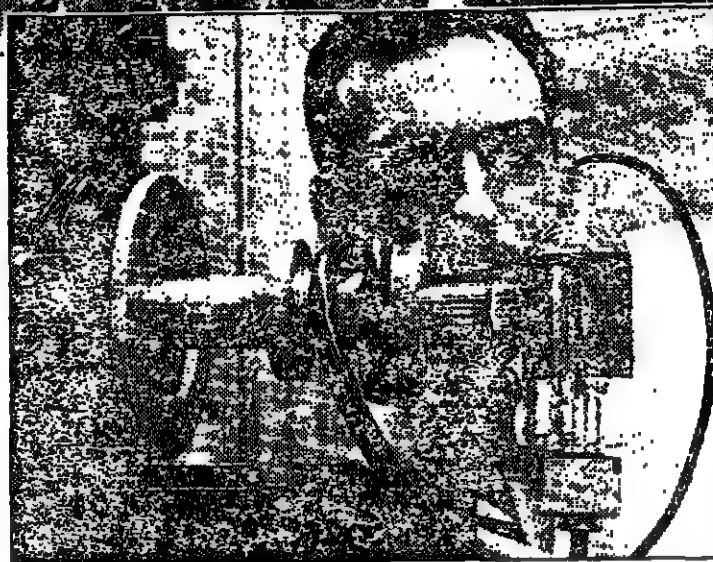
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Carlo Rubbia, holder of a Nobel prize for physics, was born. He is now Director General of the European CERN laboratory in Geneva but he still teaches in Trieste.

Rome is rather surprisingly gathering a substantial number of factories and businesses in high-tech fields and a centre has been established outside Bari in the South, under the aegis of the Apulia region, to help industrialists familiarize themselves with the advantages of technology.

The small Sicilian town of Erice, set in the hills behind Trapani, has built a unique reputation as a meeting-place for scientists working not only in academic fields and research but also in technology and medicine.

The place was chosen because its founder and director, Professor Antonino Zichichi is from Trapani. The Erice centre usually



Sound of success: work in the echoless research chamber, above, is just one of the many notable high-technology advances in key areas such as aerospace being made at the Selenia Group factory in Rome

makes news at its summer meetings of leading scientists from east and west working in nuclear fields but its activities are continuous and so far 40,000 scholars have gone there to follow courses. This year marks its 25th anniversary, and the celebrations will include a visit from the Pope.

But the real interest in where technology is strong in Italy is not primarily geographical: rather, it is the way technology has permeated much of the traditional system,

strengthening it instead of supplanting it.

This means that the small and medium size companies which remain the backbone of the Italian economy have overcome the disadvantages of size by a system of alliances made possible by information technology.

At the same time, by staying small, they maintain the advantages of flexibility and swiftness of response to market needs. Italian

exports of clothing, textiles, furniture and furs, shoes, ceramics or furniture all emerge from companies which use a high degree of technology and working together in what are called "coalitions of competitors" to produce traditional goods for international markets.

The best known experiment in the technological upgrading of a traditional industry is underway in the Prato textile area in Tuscany. A programme known as "sprint" is modernizing the technology of some 15,000 small firms, along with some 2,000 small-scale textile manufacturers, dyers and finishers.

Another example is the silk-making area around Como. Here the use of new technologies is not limited only to the production of silk fabrics. The application of biotechnologies in silk-worm production is planned and the most prominent of the Como silk manufacturers, Signor Antonio Ratti, is taking a leading part in the organization of a conference this autumn which will cover the whole field of the application of advanced technologies to the production of textiles.

Strangely, but usefully, technology has found fertile ground in some of the oldest territories of Italian manufacturing and has enhanced the vitality of a traditional system.



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Fiat believes it has
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ITALIAN TECHNOLOGY
AND ENGINEERING/2

Fiat believes it has beaten all its rivals in car automation. Just one factory tells the story

Victory at Cassino

The idea of the car as a status symbol is overworked, even for Italy where relationships between motorists and their cars are more emotionally charged than in other countries.

The status now being accorded new models is the symbol they represent as part of a whole highly sophisticated technological system of production.

How new models are made is becoming increasingly important. The old idea that a car from a reputable company would be reasonably well produced, with the possible exception of those made on Friday afternoons when the workers on the production line were tired, is archaic.

This is the message accompanying the launch of the two latest Italian cars: the Alfa Romeo 164 and the Fiat Tipo.

Both are produced by the Fiat group which has a virtual monopoly of car production in Italy. But cars represent little more than half of the group's diversified activities in terms of manpower, profit and, for Gianni Agnelli, the group's chairman, about one half of his thinking time.

Diversification has taken Fiat along a number of roads which have little or nothing to do with cars: artificial heart valves, space, telecommunications, earth-moving equipment and publishing are among them.

But Fiat chose to be strong in the field of high technology applied to car production, including the development of robotics and computer controlled production systems.

This was partly due to the crisis Fiat faced a dozen years ago with difficult labour relations in the factories. The Fiat workers in the 1960s were regarded as the aristocracy of the trades union movement and this provided a stimulus to introducing the highest possible degree of automation.

This quest began in what now seems a remote past with

the purchase of licences to construct robotics, and has now reached the point where the group is a designer of these systems for other manufacturers as well as for its own needs, and a successful exporter of machine tools.

The percentage of automation introduced into car production has with the Tipo now reached about 80 per cent, including 50 per cent of the work of the final assembly line, the most complicated aspect of production to leave to robots.

"By comparison with the previous nought per cent," says Vittorio Ghidella, managing director of Fiat Cars and chairman of Alfa-Lancia, "this represents an advance in terms of light years."

To be able to do this for the Tipo, Fiat devoted a year to remodelling the Cassino factory which had previously produced the Ritmo — or Strada as it is known in Britain — to incorporate the most highly developed technological production.

Fiat believes that no immediate rival can surpass the

Nearly £870m spent on new car production

technology in use at Cassino, just as they maintain that the Termoli factory which produces the Fire motor, used in some versions of the Tipo, is the most advanced anywhere.

The Tipo is an interesting design, more so when driven, than it would appear to be at first sight and is obviously the vital arm in Fiat's attempt to take the lead from Volkswagen in Europe.

But it is also simply a part of the production system from which it emerges. Signor Ghidella says: "We have not burnt 2,000,000 million lire (about £870 million) on the Tipo, but for a system of production which must outlive this particular model. The revolution at Cassino is intended to be introduced in all

Fiat factories to equip them for the years after 2000."

Signor Ghidella speaks with a newly burnished authority. He was responsible for the birth and success of the Uno, the car which marked the end of the depression at Fiat.

He has now taken in hand Alfa-Romeo, the group's latest purchase, which has been incorporated with Lancia into a company specialising in high quality cars. Signor Agnelli has made it clear that Signor Ghidella will eventually succeed Cesare Romiti as managing director of the whole Fiat group.

The first new model to emerge from Alfa Romeo since the purchase by Fiat is the 164. The design was, however, prepared under the former Alfa management. In fact, the 164 is the fourth car to come out of the "Type 4" project which involved Fiat, Lancia, Saab and Alfa Romeo for the development of the main structure of an upper medium-class saloon.

This project saw the appearance of the Fiat Croma, the Lancia Thema and the Saab 9000 before the Alfa 164. And so Alfa had some advantage in drawing on the experience of the others. The result is a different car from the other three: dramatically vigorous with an acceleration which places an agreeable feeling of strain on the backbone, and a top speed around 130mph.

The design is by Sergio Pininfarina and the whole project sums up the question of how best to combine technologically advanced methods of production with the traditional workmanship which is the Alfa Romeo hallmark.

Some 250 164s are produced daily with the help of 71 robots, 137 programmed work centres, three computers, laser beams and automated systems. This is the most powerful Alfa made so far; it is the only three-litre car mass produced in Italy and is clearly aimed at world markets with America as a prime target.

Its manufacture has called for the development of a



A touch of Italian elegance and power: the sleek new Alfa Romeo on Rome's Spanish Steps

completely new assembly line marking a radical change in Alfa's working methods. A large number of operations have been removed from the assembly line so that many parts can be manufactured off the line and tested before being mounted on the shell.

Both these cars are impressively Italian in performance, with the 164 representing a high point in terms of the accepted Italian qualities of beauty in appearance and a

highly vivacious temperament. And both represent a confirmation that Fiat's diversification has had two effects.

One is to place a new emphasis on the methods of production which are no longer limited to making a particular model. The second is that neither Fiat's traditional strong position in the home market nor criticisms in Italy that the group is already too powerful internally, modify the new found deter-

mination to take a larger share of world markets and a leading position in Europe.

The one cloud on the horizon at the moment, apart from the constant factor of market uncertainties, is a newly regained strength by the unions among Fiat workers which could mean that the advance of the robots and the lasers may have to face a fresh challenge.

Peter Nichols

Shake-up for planemakers

Technology may prove to be the key to deciding whether Italy's aircraft industry will be reorganised and the whole sector placed within a newly formed group under the state.

The likelihood of setting up this new group to include all state companies producing aircraft, components, helicopters and technological support has sharply increased because of the vacant chairmanship of Aeritalia, which makes aircraft and manufactures parts for Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, winner Peter Nichols.

Aeritalia is also well known for its place in carbon-fibre composite materials technology and proposed the recent idea of a satellite tethered to the US space shuttle by a 100km Kevlar thread, a project now going ahead jointly with Nasa and Italy's National Research Council.

The appointment of the new chairman of Aeritalia is expected to indicate whether plans to bring the company together with Agusta, the group mainly known for its success in the design and building of helicopters, and possibly with the state airline, Alitalia, will now have a better chance to materialise.

Alitalia and Aeritalia both belong to Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), the biggest of the state's groupings. Agusta heads a group, along with such small but well-known companies as Caproni, Sial Marchetti and OMI, owned by Ente Partecipazioni e Finanziamento Industria Manifatturiera (EFIM).

Essentially, the plan would be to extract Agusta from EFIM and make it, with Aeritalia and Alitalia, a homogeneous group within IRI.

There are two principal obstacles. The first is that Alitalia might not fit comfortably because such close collaboration with Aeritalia might be seen as limiting the airline's autonomy in choosing new aircraft. Aeritalia, for instance, is part of the consortium projecting and building the Airbus series.

The second is the choice of chairman for the new grouping. Aeritalia no longer has a candidate as it is without a

president. Umberto Nardin, Alitalia's chairman, is known internationally as a manager and he would be the obvious choice — given that Alitalia comes into the grouping.

If, however, the need is seen to be for a leader in technology who has also shown capacity for turning an unprofitable industry into a profitable one, the choice is likely to fall on Raffaello Testi, chairman and chief executive of Agusta.

He is not an easy man, but his achievement at Agusta is not doubted. He has also been much in the news lately because of the publicity over the maiden flight, at the end of last year, of the Italian prototype of the EH101, the helicopter which the Agusta group is developing jointly with the British company Westland.

Signor Testi is eloquent in describing his own success. When he took over at Agusta, he says, the company had over 100 employees in the US helicopter industry "in the way that people geminate to the Pope".

He has lately experienced the mixed pleasure of feeling the effects of American diffidence in offering Agusta participation in joint ventures because US companies, he says, see it as a dangerous rival; not one to be allowed access to technological secrets.

The weak US dollar helped to cut Agusta's percentage of exports last year to 56 per cent, compared with 86 per cent in 1986. But turnover remained at the same level.

Signor Testi is also deeply into European co-operation. But the EH101, which is limited to the two countries, is for the moment looking like one of Agusta's most promising projects. Apart from the British and Italian forces, the Canadian Navy has ordered it and interest has been shown by both of the world's leading helicopter markets — the US and the Japanese.

One of the EH101's strengths is its versatility. Three versions are planned: the civil model will carry 30 passengers, and the utility and naval variants have room for various sensors, weapons and transport material.

THE WORLD

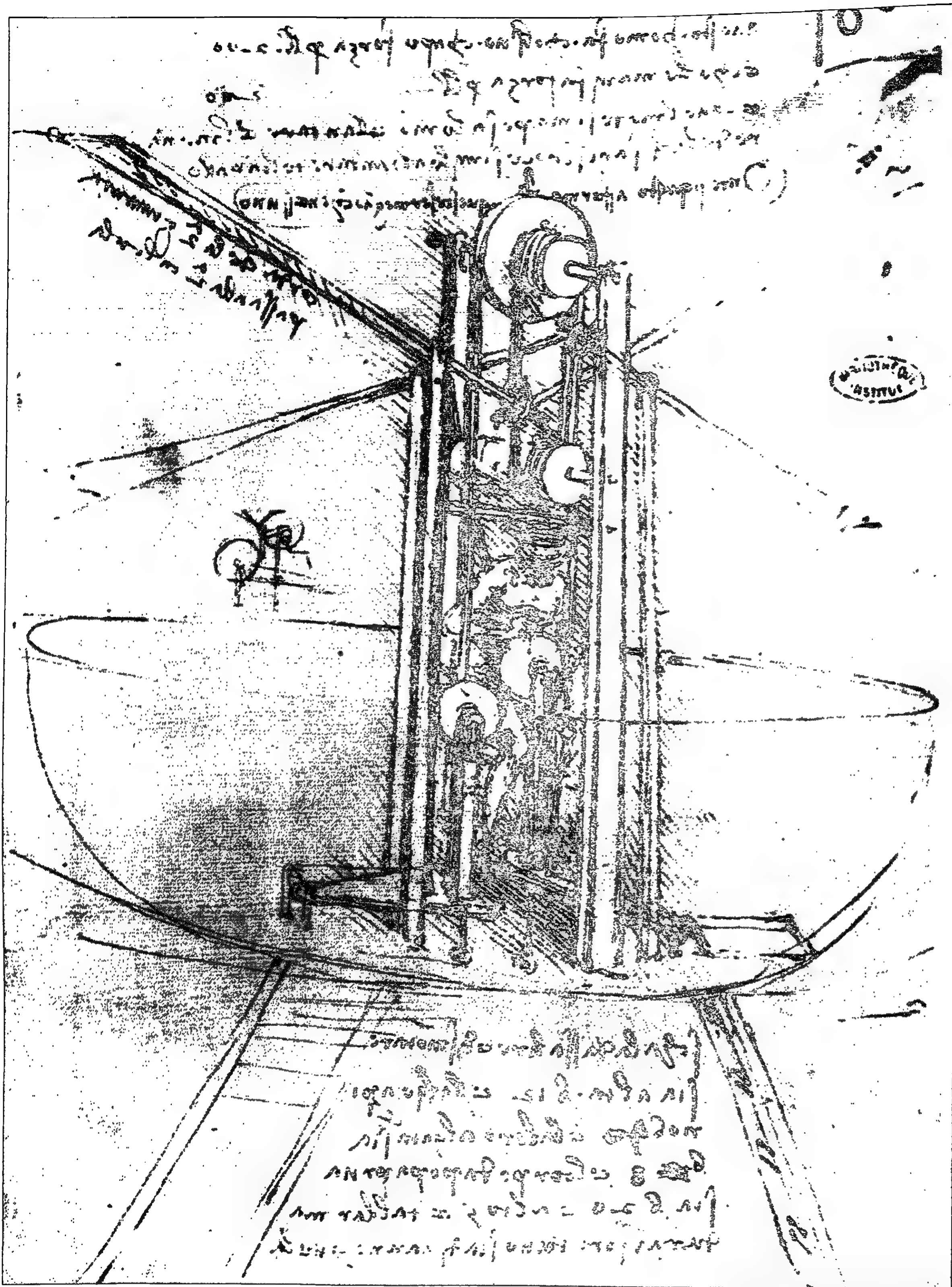
MANY PLACES

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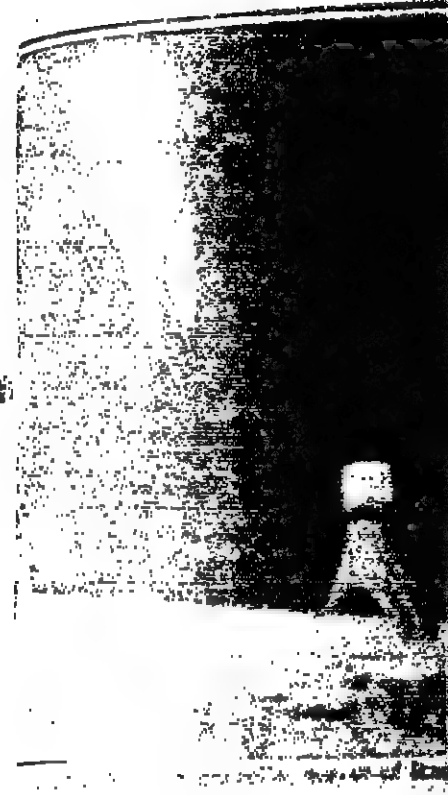
Mechanism of flying machine by Leonardo da Vinci.

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In the recent 'What Car? Awards', Fiat won two accolades. The first was for technical innovation which was awarded to our stepless automatic transmission as used in the Uno Selecta.

Fiat also won the award for the best family hatchback. This was given to the Tipo 1.6 Dgt., a car which hasn't yet been launched in this country.

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ITALIAN TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING/3

Abdus Salam, the Pakistani 1979 Nobel prize winner and physicist at London's Imperial College, is largely responsible for the fact that Trieste is making itself known internationally as a forum for fundamental and applied research.

Due to Abdus Salam's drive, the International Centre for Theoretical Physics, of which he is director, was set up in 1964 and has found a permanent home next to Miramare castle, built by the ill-fated Emperor Maximilian of Mexico.

No starry-eyed scientist, the professor has cajoled funds out of the Italian government as well as IAEA and Unesco, so that today the centre has an annual budget of \$15 million and in total 30,000 scientists, of which nearly 4,000 pass through its doors each year.

Intended originally as a place where third world scientists could keep abreast of latest developments in fundamental physics, the centre is increasingly interested in practical research.

From 11 to 22 April, for example, it has a workshop on superconductivity, the scientific breakthrough that may revolutionize our use of electricity.

The centre is becoming the tip of a science park iceberg. Behind Trieste, among the Slovene speaking villages on

Nobel powerhouse beside the castle

the Carso plateau, a scientific research area is taking shape, with incentives to firms undertaking applied research programmes.

Here is the European headquarters of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, and here will be the synchrotron "light machine" promoted by another Nobel physicist, Carlo Rubbia from nearby Gorizia.

Among other institutions, the Laboratory of Marine Biology, on the coast, is the only study centre in the Mediterranean for medusas or jellyfish.

Businesses have the backing of a free port (the port authority has returned to profit) and industrial area, in which trading and industrial processing are customs-free.

Though less publicized than the Mezzogiorno or south, a package of inducements is available to companies setting up in Trieste and Gorizia provinces, including various tax exemptions-reductions, 7 per cent concessional loans and reduced social insurance contributions.

Most of the heavy industry is state owned, like Finc-

Technology poles are emerging in unexpected places

antieri, shipbuilder and diesel engine manufacturer. Italy's biggest yard at Monfalcone, 20 miles along the coast, has recently completed the world's biggest crane vessel, Micoperi 7000, capable of lifting 14,000 tons.

Now, according to a company spokesman, Fincantieri has on its order book two 71,800 ton cruise liners, a container ship for 2,500 containers, a 260,000 ton deadweight ore carrier and a 135,000 ton deadweight bulk carrier.

Nevertheless Fincantieri may have to cut its Monfalcone work force of 3,000, in an industrial atmosphere already soured in Trieste by the closure of an oil refinery and the threatened shutdown of an ironworks.

Go west however to Friuli, the agricultural plain astride the route from Vienna to Venice, and the climate is quite different. Since the war artisans, carpenters and mech-

anics have built up a texture of prosperous firms, often still family owned, and brimming with self-confidence.

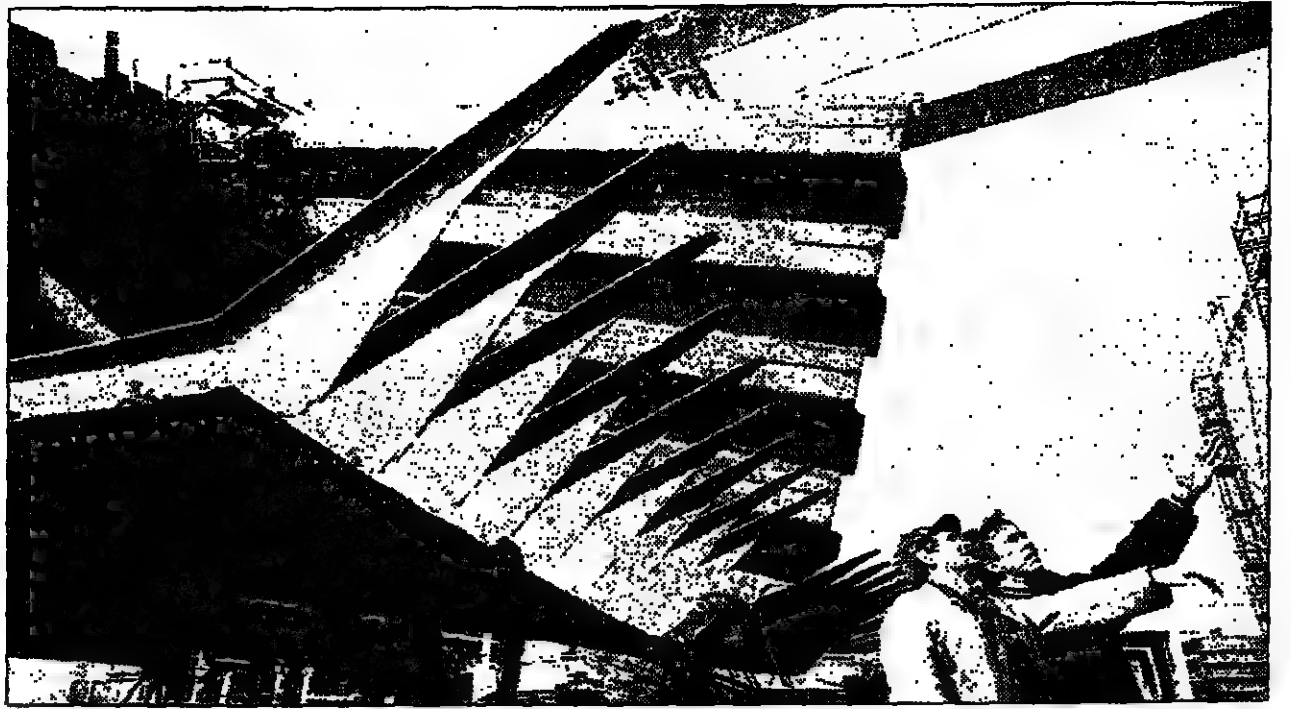
Some are now internationally known, like Zanussi of Pordenone, Cogolo outside Udine, and Daniel at Buttrio nearby.

Zanussi has 23.7 per cent of the Italian market for white goods and domestic appliances, and 12 per cent of the European. It is an exception to the success story, for the Zanussi family expanded beyond their capabilities, and the firm was heading for disaster when Electrolux of Sweden stepped in 1985.

The Swedes, now holding 95 per cent of the company, have engineered a remarkable recovery, returning to a profit of lire 36 billion (£16 million) in 1986. The 1987 profit, on turnover of lire 1,769 billion (£786 million) is expected to be considerably higher.

A result of Zanussi's commitment to research (lire 30 billion) spent last year is its prototype, under development, of a computerized "intelligent kitchen."

The idea is that a housewife can, by using a TV-type



Scope for growth: The north-east is rapidly emerging as a centre of technological excellence with an impressive development potential, above, the Fincantieri shipyards at Monfalcone

remote control gadget or by telephoning from outside, receive a message such as: "Thank you for calling, the cake is in the oven and will be ready for the children's tea. Remember the frozen peas are near expiry and should be eaten this evening. Will activate the dishwasher after midnight to save on electricity. Have telephoned the technician to find the fault in the washing machine programme."

On the other hand Cogolo, founded in 1936, is very much a family concern, with turnover last year that reached the lire 500 billion (£225 million) level, 35 per cent up on 1986.

The company, described as the biggest tanning complex in Europe, is headed by Giovanni Cogolo, owner of 94 per cent of the shares, helped by his son Alessandro and daughter Lina. The firm also supplies turn-key plants in the

tanning and leather sector and has recently diversified into car interior fittings.

On the road towards Gorizia is Danieli, among the world's top five suppliers of steel plants, particularly for long products. Its concentration on mini-mills, producing 100,000 to 1 million tons a year, has defied the steel industry's crisis, and net profits increased from lire 31.1 billion in 1986 to lire 44.3

billion last year (£13.8 to £19.6 million) on turnover of lire 584.9 billion.

The company boasts of having supplied 136 plants in the decade 1977-87, and of providing machinery for 52 per cent of the world's mini-mills. Among recent British customers are Sheerness Iron and Steel UMB, and Darlington and Simpson rolling mills.

John Earle



Thinking big: Nicola Signorello, mayor of Rome

Hi-tech slips quietly and cleanly into the Eternal City

Three principal roads are leading away from the traditional idea of Rome as a chaotic, exotic as well as historic metropolis, with problems seemingly as eternal as the nature of the city itself writes Peter Nichols.

The first and most striking of the new elements in Roman life is the fact that Rome has unobtrusively become the country's third largest industrial city. That means it has taken the place of Genoa after Milan and Turin as the main bastions of Italian industrial life.

The emergence of Rome as an industrial centre of significance has broken the neat idea that economically Italy depends exclusively on the northern industrial triangle. The claim to the third place is made in terms of the number of persons employed in industry in Rome, and it overturns a host of stereotype ideas about the city.

Fortunately for the ecological health of Rome, much of this new

industry is concentrated in fields of high technology.

One of the most important projects put forward by the Industrialists Union is for developing technological industries along the Via Tiburtina where some of the best known companies working in electronics and other highly technological fields are already based, including the state-owned Selenia group which is one of Europe's leaders in space and highly sophisticated systems.

"Tiburtina Valley" is one of the inevitable nicknames given to this plan which is officially described as a project for "The Industrial Park of the Tiber".

In terms of innovation, Rome is certainly moving fast. In the last five years, much of the development has been in the form of small companies with a high content of intellectual capital. The increase has been about 35 per cent. Centres of data elabora-

tion increased in this period by more than a 100 per cent and, as an example of a sophisticated product being put to current use, the systems for equipping Italy's minesweepers in the Gulf were made in Rome.

Neither the Pope nor successive governments, after national unity was achieved in 1870, wanted to see industry near Rome.

The reason for this opposition, according to Signor Nicola Signorello, the present mayor of Rome, was fear that industrialization would mean that the workers would be in a position to exert direct pressure on the national government.

The violence of the Paris Commune in 1870 - the date of Italian unification - was a warning to the first generation of Italian politicians not to risk the dangers that factories might bring. Aesthetically, of course, these fears were a blessing, because they protected the city from

the desecration which the early years of industrialization brought elsewhere in the country.

The 1883 development plan, for instance, set aside scarcely 60 acres for industrial sites and most of this was not used. The 1909 development plan contained no reference to industry at all and such small factories and workshops as came into being followed no pattern.

The Fascists too were against industrial concentration in the Rome area. They gave Rome a governor and saw its administrative requirements as something approaching the American solution of a District of Columbia which administratively deals with Washington's needs.

Mussolini's administration was also rather muddled in its development projects which were aimed at increasing the population of Rome yet making the city a capital on a large-scale. Ideas that industry might be allowed to expand to the

south of the city ran into obstacles when the planners decided that urban Rome should continue towards the sea.

This highly complicated historical background leaves Mayor Signorello with the conviction that Rome is by far the most difficult of European cities to govern.

Rome has little or no modern democratic tradition, and this lack of the powerful voice of its own helped distinguish Rome as a city from other capitals.

However, the industrialists who have so newly made Rome a notable industrial city still speak of a "strident contrast" between the outlook of the various administrations and of their own feeling that speed and efficiency are essential.

But, they accept that the projects which Mayor Signorello's administration is pressing forward give a welcome impression of thinking big which augurs well for Rome in the year 2000 and after.

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Bend a chair in minutes

Italian fantasy clearly influences its machine tool production, writes Janet Stobart

Less than 100 years ago Italian artisans were the mainstay of their country's life-style — pasta-makers, woodworkers, jewellers, craftsmen, masons, textile workers and potters were in constant demand.

Today much of Italian fantasy for engineering and crafting goes into making the machinery which produces these artefacts.

A late starter in some areas, but quick to catch up as usual and overtake her European rivals, Italy now has some of the most modern factory equipment in the industrialized world.

Fiat's machine tool subsidiary COMAU, is a prime example. It manufactures the robot machinery which almost single-handedly turns out the latest family saloon, the Fiat Tigo.

COMAU is an integral part of the Fiat philosophy to use industrial automation controlled by computer integrated systems whereby output can be monitored, modified and planned by computer networks.

Production planning, robotized assembly lines and laser welding stations are just some of the achievements of this sector and a growing export item for the Fiat group.

Robot manufacturing is constantly increasing in Italy, at the annual rate of about 15 per cent. So far Italy has 3,300 installed robot units making it the world's fifth largest robot user.

Automated factories are an everyday reality and national Italian sales in local area networks have reached \$160 million (\$88 million) turnover with the prospect of easily quadrupling once they reach the international market.

That the computer is an integral part of any machine tool factory is the belief of

Walter Pedrazzoli who owns and manages one of the Italy's biggest and most versatile tube bending and cutting machinery factories.

Signor Pedrazzoli is a classic example of the medium-sized industry which so typifies this sector of Italian industry.

With 200 employees the factory, in the wealthy and highly active small industrial area of the northern Veneto region, produces high precision machines of increasingly avant-garde technology.

His products are too much in demand. "We can't keep up with orders for most of our latest equipment," says Signor Pedrazzoli. An example of the latest equipment is a totally automatic Benetton model tube bending machine attachable to an IBM computer which can perform three bending operations simultaneously.

Pedrazzoli machinery, developed by a small team of researchers and technicians over the last 40 years is now found in most of Italy's major automobile, aeroplane, naval and arms manufacturing plants but also in light industries, such as furniture (Pedrazzoli machines can bend aluminium tubes into a Bauhaus chair in three minutes flat), household appliances and bicycles. Half of this production is sold abroad, with new contracts on the horizon in India and China.

Over a hundred years ago, Italy's staple diet, spaghetti, was produced by the muscled arms of pasta cooks. Today a few white-coated technicians oversee some of the world's most up to date pasta machinery in the Agnesi pasta factory on the Ligurian coast. Here, computer regulated machines created by Braibanti of Milan mix, knead and spit out pasta forms and sheaths of spaghetti at the rate of thousands of kilos per day.

Italy's share of the world market of machine tools despite a slight drop in overseas customers in 1987, still hovers around 7 per cent with a slight increase in national sales.

The future of this sector is optimistic, say members of the board of UCIMU, the



Computerized pasta: the Agnesi factory near Genoa makes all shapes of pasta on the world's most up-to-date machines

Italian consortium of machine tool manufacturers which offers assistance and facilities to both manufacturers and buyers.

"Today many industrialists are hovering between the possibility of playing the role of protagonists and of being mere spectators of industrial production. Their future depends on the degree of automation they will acquire," said UCIMU board member Giancarlo Mandelli while inaugurating a recent machine tool fair in Milan.

Computer specialization is another area where more expertise is needed as the concept of an automated factory now means computer aided design and computer integrated manufacturing.

Italy, however, is keeping abreast with sales abroad. Between 1980 and 1986 the Italian machine tool industry market grew at a steady an-

nual rate of 12.2 per cent while imports increased at the rate of 9.2 per cent. The steady growth of exports reached lire 1,446 billion in 1986, putting Italy in fifth place in the world list of machine tool exporting countries.

The list of 90 different types of machine tools traded between Italy and the world is headed by lathes, mills, machines, presses and grinding machines. Robots are also becoming a major Italian product with factories, aside from Fiat's COMAU, such as Jobs in Piacenza who turn out Jo'bot industrial robots for workpiece automatic handling and production cell management.

Italy will continue its progress march in the development of sophisticated machinery from the making of bread to satellites, and last week launched its first all-Italian "San Marco" satellite into orbit from Mombasa.

The nuclear chaos

The atomic future is starting to fade, writes Roger Boyes

The radioactive cloud from Chernobyl has claimed a new victim: Italian nuclear policy.

Italy's atomic future has been indefinitely postponed, thanks to a national referendum last November that hedges-in the financing and construction of nuclear power stations.

The explosion at the Chernobyl plant in the Soviet Ukraine added clout to the arguments of the anti-nuclear lobby. Some 80 per cent of the referendum turnout voted to slow down the expansion of nuclear energy.

It was not, however, a blanket rejection of the nuclear option. The real result, predictably, is confusion. The government is obliged to find appropriate legislation within the next few months but the parties are divided as to how to interpret the referendum results.

Nobody wants to be held responsible for completely renouncing atomic energy, but at the same time no party wants to be seen flouting the will of the nation.

The scene around the most modern Italian power station in Montalto di Castro, north of Rome, reflects the chaos in national policy. The plant has a capacity of 2,000 MW and is impressively clean and futuristic, not unlike the campus of one of the newer universities. Seagulls screech overhead since the Mediterranean is not far away.

But, from last December it has been closed with final building halted until the implications of the referendum are worked out. In mid-March, however, the plant was given the go-ahead by the Christian Democratic government.

The result was a large, noisy encampment of Greens and other anti-nuclear demonstrators with bewildered building workers unsure whether they should be going in or out, managers shouting orders, police, bored national servicemen and, of course, TV cameras.

The last act of the government of Signor Giovanni Goria was to approve the completion of the plant. The



Protest at Montalto nuclear plant: Anna Donati, member of Parliament for the Green party is taken away by the police

last act of Signor Goria's Socialist party was to denounce the Cabinet decision and effectively destroy what was left of Italy's governing consensus. The new government will therefore have to incorporate a fresh compromise on the future of Montalto and on nuclear energy in general.

The political boddling is causing considerable alarm among energy planners and, naturally, nuclear plant manufacturers. The chairman of ENI, the state energy conglomerate, Professor Franco Reviglio, put it crisply: "Decisions need to be made now, particularly about energy policy for the future. Whether it's more nuclear reactors or whatever — if we don't do something the situation will slowly deteriorate." Or quickly.

There are only three small functioning nuclear power plants in Italy. Their output makes up about 4 per cent of total electricity production. Montalto would be the fourth plant. But even if Montalto survives the current wrangling, it will make only a small impact on the energy picture.

Soon after it comes on-stream, one of the three plants

than predicted. The revised energy programme until 1990 provides more realistically for the building of six nuclear plants of 2,000 MW each, and a nuclear share of 7.1 per cent in electricity production.

That share should rise, according to these official projections, to between 10-14 per cent by 1995. It plainly will not. A dangerous chasm is opening-up between supply and demand. Coal-fired power stations are also having their problems from environmentalists and cannot pick up the slack.

The result is bound to be increased imports of electricity (from France and Yugoslavia) and a new vulnerability. The picture will become extremely complicated if the oil price rises again. How is this affecting the nuclear engineers? In Italy they are, on the whole, philosophical. To the businessman, the situation has been clear for some time — the future of power plant construction must lie outside Italy. Ansaldo is a case in point.

The firm is part of the state-holding company IRI and has been active in building power plants since the 1950s. Like its West German counterparts — for they, too, are faced with huge problems in nuclear siting — Ansaldo has had to diversify into other products and seek out overseas markets.

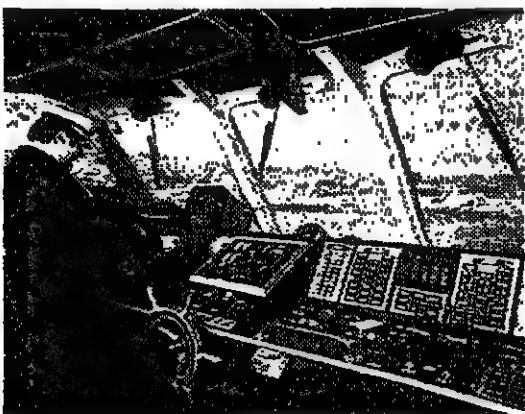
Its speciality is turnkey construction, but it also has a well developed consultancy service. Precisely because the Italian nuclear industry has not progressed much beyond first base, Italian power plant constructors are in less of a swamp than their West German competitors.

The nuclear outlook, though, is still under that Ukrainian cloud. The political parties will probably — perhaps in a year or two — edge towards a more positive attitude.

Certainly if there is a new rise in oil prices there will be movement on the issue. Importing electricity is only a short-term solution, but all too often that is the kind of solution which appeals to short-term governments. Only a lasting Italian government can end the nuclear stalemate.



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ITALIAN TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING/5

New life on the wing

Italy, the land of lovers, is also the land of transplanted hearts. In the 1980s Italy has developed an extraordinary talent for transplants, flying organs across the country and performing the most spectacular operations.

It took a builder in Gorgonzola, near Milan, to demonstrate earlier this month, how surgical skills have been matched by technical progress. The 41-year-old man was rushed to hospital after severe chest pains. A heart transplant seemed the only way out, but within the few hours available it was impossible to find a compatible donor.

So, during an 11-hour operation, a lightweight artificial heart was inserted. The operation had bought time for doctors to track down a natural heart. The patient is the third Italian to be given a temporary heart recently, and all three survive with good chances of a long life.

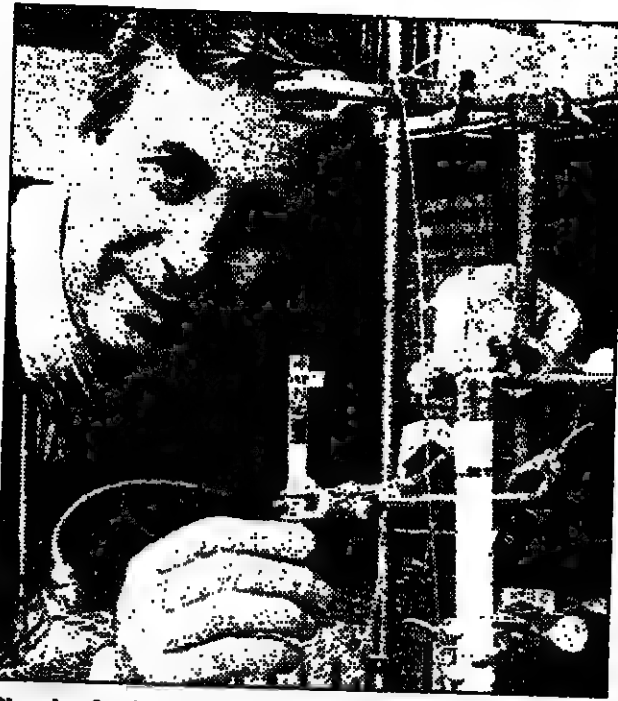
It is not just a question of support machinery; there have been important breakthroughs in artificial organs and drugs, but with such rapid changes come moral dilemmas.

One of the great debates in Italy is at what point the organ of a dead patient can be removed. Is it necessary for the heart to stop throbbing before declaring the patient to be dead?

The ethical discussion, sometimes rather grisly, has raised the awareness of Italians about the progress made by political researchers. Italians accustomed to judge their medicine by the state of their hospitals — which share the European malaise of under-investment, poor wages and manpower shortages — are acknowledging that their scientists and surgeons are among the world leaders.

"The Italians are well positioned within the framework of Mediterranean medicine," says Dr Romeo Roncucci, the brilliant head of research at Erbamont in Milan.

"They have good universities, a mobile soak-up experience from the Anglo-Saxon school of medical research." There are more than 3,000 leading Italian special-



Planning for the future: Dr Pietro Calisano of the Institute of Neurobiology, part of the National Research Council, stresses the need to create new research traditions in Italy

ists active in the US; the traffic is heavy and most return to enrich Italian institutes.

Priorities, not unnaturally, are similar to those of the US and Britain: above all, to wage war on the great killers of heart disease and cancer.

Sorin Biomedica, a subsidiary of Fiat, is one of the top manufacturers of artificial cardiac valve prostheses — spare parts for the heart. They are small — about the size of a matchbox — lightweight discs of pyrolytic carbon inside a cage made of stellite (an alloy of chromium, cobalt and tungsten). Around this intricate piece of metal there is a ring of Teflon fabric.

Sorin Biomedica is the only European manufacturer of this valve and is finding a ready market as heart surgery develops. Its other artificial valve is biological rather than mechanical. It uses membrane from calves which are specially bred for the purpose.

More conventional medical engineering is represented by Italian pacemakers. But again, there have been huge strides since the first pacemaker went into commercial production in the 1960s.

But it is in the pharmaceutical field that the real breakthrough will come. The Erba-

mont company is the child of a mixed marriage. The roots of the company go back to 1837 when the chemist Carlo Erba took over a pharmacy in Milan and started to experiment among other things with hydrocyanic acids, phosphoric ether and methane.

A hundred years later the Erba family concern merged with Farmitalia, and then in 1983 became Erbamont, part of the Montedison group, within the sprawling Ferruzzi-Montedison empire. But it has retained its sense of family tradition and works best as a market-sensitive concern.

The point is important because the modernization of the Italian economy has depended to a large degree on small scale flexible units that can respond quickly to change, project a good idea on to the market, before the corporate giants start to stir.

When Dr Roncucci came to Erbamont two years ago his first task was to organize its research and development into five smaller sections — anti-infectious, cardiovascular, nervous system, immunology and oncology.

"Immunology is so advanced that it seems constantly on the brink of a breakthrough," he says. "The

Aids plague has spurred research into drugs that can raise immunological barriers.

Most research and development money is going into anti-cancer drugs. During the 1970s the Farmitalia-Carlo Erba group came up with Adriamycin which is still the most widely used anti-tumour treatment in the world. A second generation drug, Epirubicin, was developed that had fewer toxic side effects.

On the way is a drug that is already sparking interest in European hospitals — an anti-leukaemia drug that can be taken orally. This will eliminate, or at least reduce, the need for patients to visit hospital for radiotherapy or injections.

There is always some vagueness about when products can be launched; development in toxicology has actually worked against the pharmaceutical industry by increasing the time needed for tests. The lead-time from the birth of an idea to a drug's appearance in pharmacies is 7-15 years.

That requires patience and money. Hence the need for the small innovator to seek the protection of large concerns. The conundrum of the industry is that many competing companies are working in parallel on the same problems slowing down the launch of potentially life-saving drugs.

A partial answer to this, understood better in Italy than in other European countries, is to increase international co-operation, not only between laboratories and universities but between industrial companies.

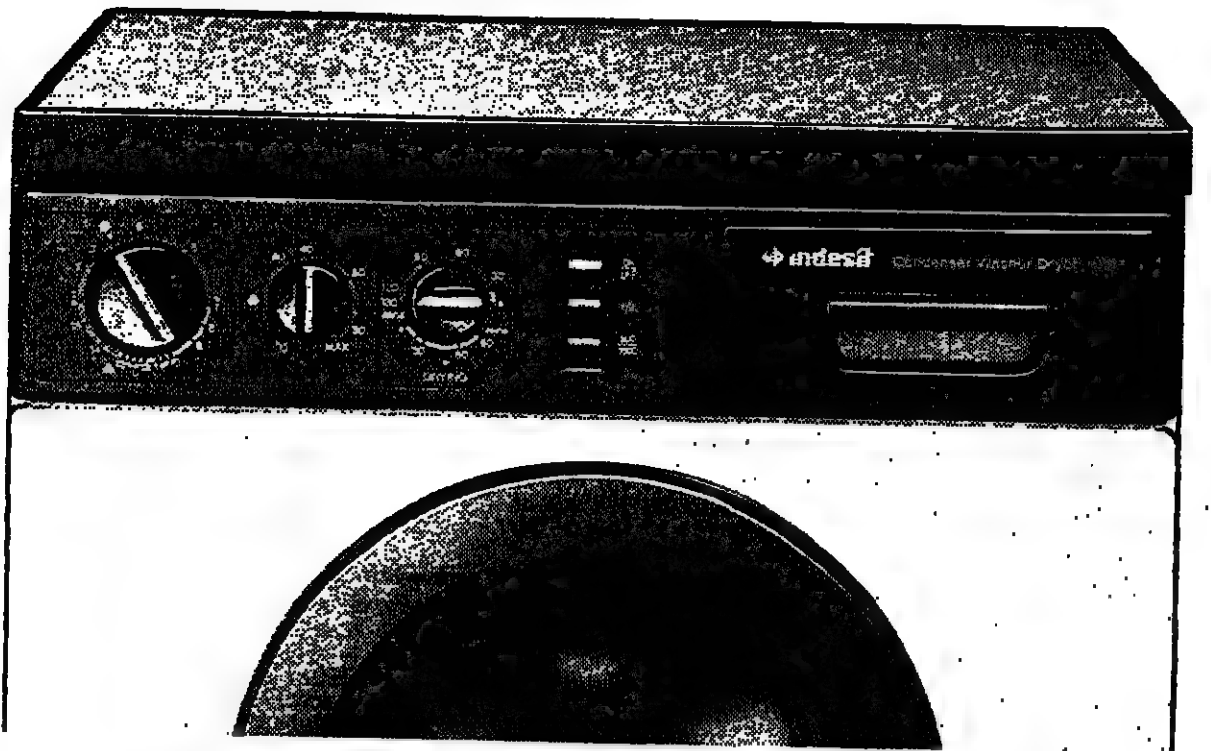
But how can this be done without compromising the competitive edge? Dr Roncucci proposed in a paper two years ago that pharmaceutical researchers should agree on an area of "pre-competition."

Somewhere between the basic research on a drug and its subsequent commercial development, there is a grey zone where companies could pool their knowledge without having ideas stolen. In theory, that could save both money and time.

Utopian? Perhaps, but no more so than the idea of flying hearts from north to south and kidneys from east to west.

Roger Boyes

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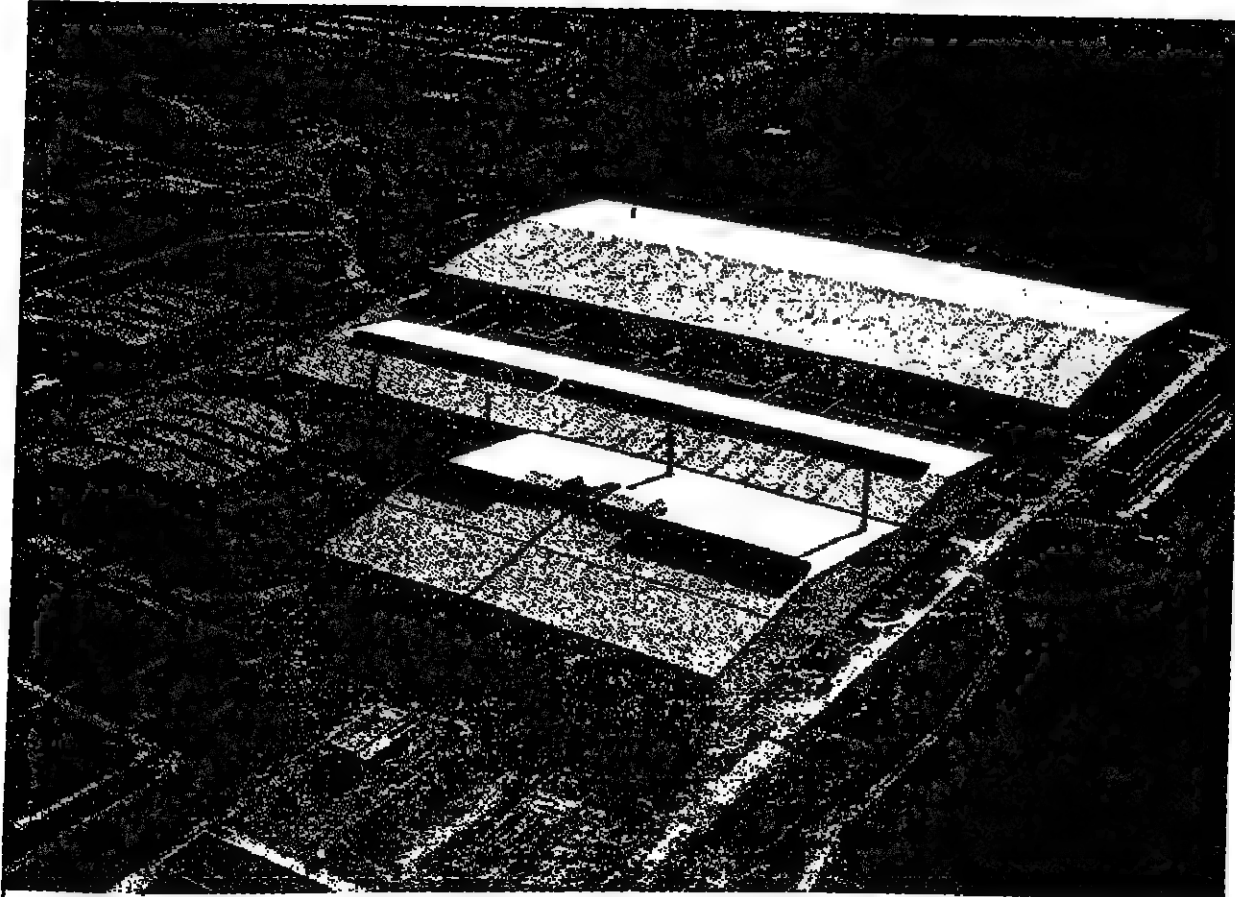


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From mines to missiles, Italy's defence industry is among the most varied and advanced in the world

Shopping list of weapons for sale

Electric solution from sea to shore

If all goes well, Italians will in the 1990s be using electricity generated at sea on one or more artificial islands writes John Earle.

This is one solution being considered by the national electricity board ENEL to the dilemma of how to reconcile steadily increasing demand for power with the halt to the nuclear programme brought about by last year's referendum, together with persisting reluctance by local authorities on environmental grounds to give permits for new conventional plants on Italian soil.

ENEL believes that, assuming average annual growth in the economy of 2.5 per cent, demand for electricity will rise from 210 billion kWh last year to 315 billion kWh in 2000.

Pre-feasibility studies have been carried out and, ENEL says, the detailed technical studies are now getting under way for a plant consisting of four 660 megawatt units, or a little more than 2,500 MW in all. It will be a "multi-fuel" plant, meaning that it may run on either oil, coal or gas.

The plant will be in the shape of a rectangle, some 750-780 metres long by 450-470 metres broad but, when a port and ancillary installations are added, the whole island will probably be about 1,500 metres or nearly a mile long.

The intention is to design it like a modern power station on land, to the latest anti-pollution standards, although it will be at sea, and the whole installation will be protected by a breakwater or dyke. Accommodation will be provided for up to 600 people.

ENEL has identified several possible sites off eastern, southern and western Italy, but its president, Franco Viezzoli, has been quoted as expressing a preference for somewhere in the Adriatic between Venice and Puglia, about seven or eight miles from the coast.

While it is difficult to forecast capital expenditure on a plant that will come into operation in the next decade, the experts predict that the cost of producing electricity in this way will be 19 per cent per kilowatt hour more than on land.

The optimists talk of starting to build next year, but the pessimists believe completion is unlikely much before 2000.

ENEL is backed in these studies by a consortium of leading names in advanced engineering and technology, including Ansaldo, Tosi, Bellotti, Lodigiani, Pirelli and Tecnomare.

The latter is a small company with a niche of its own in the research and development of techniques for the offshore oil industry.

Among its applied research projects, it is studying how robots can replace divers to work at depth, how floating platforms can be sited over oilfields in deep water (down to 600 metres seabed in the North Sea and 1,000 metres in the Mediterranean) and how wells on the seabed can be remotely controlled by acoustic methods.

From side arms to submarines, from tanks and artillery to sophisticated electronic weapons systems, the Italian defence industry is among the most varied and advanced in the world. Italian companies, many of them state-owned, produce warships, military aircraft and helicopters, missiles, torpedoes, fire control systems, avionics, mines and ammunition of all kinds. Virtually any item on a defence shopping list, short of the most advanced super power products, can be supplied by an Italian company.

Sales estimates vary, and both the companies themselves and the Italian government are secretive, particularly about export figures. But a generally accepted estimate is that during the early 1980s overall defence sales were between 6-8,000 billion (£2,800-3,700 million) per year, of which half was exported.

Today, however, the outlook is more gloomy. First estimates for 1987 indicate a 10 per cent drop in sales and a 25 per cent drop in exports. The appearance of new exporters like Brazil, China and Israel have made competition much fiercer, and the fall in dollar and oil prices has made potential customers less extravagant.

In addition, a wave of anti-arms feeling in Italy itself has resulted in complex and restrictive legislation on exports.

Nevertheless, Italy's defence industry shares most of these problems with its competitors, and in certain sectors is technically advanced and competitive. Agusta, for instance, produces the A129 Mangusta attack helicopter, the only pure attack helicopter made apart from those built by the Americans and the Soviets.

Oto Melara, a company controlled by the state holding company Efim, produces top quality artillery, tanks and armoured cars, the latter using Fiat drive trains. Its latest development is a 76mm cannon that can fire up to two rounds per second, the Otomatic or Super Rapido. It can be mounted in tank turrets or on ships, and used against both missiles and surface targets.

Other new products from Oto Melara are the Marte Mark II air-to-surface missile, and the Sidam anti-aircraft system for troop carriers, for 25mm guns, in a turret with optometric fire control.

The electronics and high tech field is also healthy. Rome-based Selenia, controlled by the IRI state holding company, produces among other things the Aspid-Skyguard anti-aircraft missile system.

And also in the Rome area, two private firms, Contraves and Elettronica, specialize in the design and assembly of weapons systems and in advanced electronic warfare respectively. Both are highly competitive in their respective fields.

These are just three of the dozens of companies that occupy competitive "niches" in electronics applied to defence. Many of these firms are located

European joint ventures are a necessity

just east of Rome, around the Via Tiburtina, an area known as Tiburtina Valley.

In the naval field, there is Fincantieri, another state controlled company, that produces frigates and corvettes, as well as a private company, Intermarine, that specializes in minesweepers. Several smaller shipyards also produce very modern patrol boats.

Perhaps the best known feather in the defence industry's cap is the contract, signed in 1985, for Beretta to supply the new standard side arm for the American Armed Forces.

After extensive tests, the US government chose the Beretta 92F, a 9mm automatic, to replace the 1911 model Colt 45. The initial contract calls for the supply of 315,930 pistols, to be built both in Italy and by the Beretta USA Corporation.

But the fact remains that Italy's traditional markets in the Third World have become poorer, competition greater, and the Italian government is

doing little to promote Italian products.

Legislation on exports is vague, complex and restrictive, and there are two recent cases of important companies being investigated for allegedly exporting defence products illegally. Unlike the French, Italian politicians seem to have a form of prudence towards the country's weapons industry.

"While the French government sets up the Pro-Giat company to promote French arms sales," complains Signor Bruno Delio Stroligo, spokesman for the Firearms Manufacturers' Association, "our government seems to do all it can to hinder us. Our industry could compete successfully with anyone in the world, if it were not for the slowness and restrictiveness in granting export licences."

This is an important handicap in what has become essentially a buyer's market. "They used to come to us to buy," says Signor Alessandro Politi, a defence expert and editor of *Publi Consul*, "and they came cash in hand. Today, we have to go out and look for customers, who will only pay with barter agreements."

Many of the major Italian companies are reacting by seeking joint ventures with other Europeans aimed at the Nato market. Plans are well underway for a European frigate, and most of the top Italian companies in ship building, weaponry and relative electronics are involved.

Agusta, the state controlled helicopter company, is working with British Westland on the EH101 helicopter, the first examples of which are already in the air. Another state company, Aeritalia, is involved in the European Fighter Aircraft project, as well as in the Tornado multi role combat aircraft.

"Organizing a multinational project can be difficult and time consuming," says Commander Giuseppe De Michel, secretary of the Defence Electronics Producers Association.

"But in the long run it should allow a scale of production and research that would be impossible for a single European nation. As things stand, joint ventures are not an option but a necessity."

Paul Bompard



Joint venture: The EH 101 built by Agusta and Westland is a new generation of medium-heavy helicopter with an operational range over 800 km. Its sophisticated on-board systems make it a fully-fledged 'technology carrier'

The research revolution

Antonio Ruberti, Minister for Scientific Research examines the changing frameworks

Italy has a new institutional framework in the making to regulate the university and research systems. There is also great determination to encourage higher investment in both fields and improve quality.

In the university sector in 1980, a series of laws were passed which opened the way for experimental organization, introduced research doctorates and in particular ensured direct finance for university research. New universities were also created mainly in the central and southern parts of the country.

State research institutions, in particular the all-round National Research Council, were given greater budgets and were able to undertake major projects. There has been an increase too, in European commitment to research, ranging from traditional sectors of physics to space projects, new technology programmes and nuclear fusion.

In the network of industrial research, an important role is played by the growing interest of private enterprise projects.

It is now imperative to establish a focal point, and unite direction, co-ordination and public research organizations as well as to support private industrial research. This is the aim of the government law proposal which intends to transfer to



Antonio Ruberti: in charge of scientific research

the Ministry of Research responsibility for universities, thus making it the Ministry of University and Research.

The government initiatives under examination by parliament have been greeted with substantial agreement from the majority parties as well as finding favour with the opposition. There is also strong approval from the academic world and industrial concerns.

Research policy expects an increase in investments over the next few years from the current 1.45 per cent of GNP to a figure which competes realistically with the research spending of principal European countries.

There is also a need to overcome differences in various types of research. For

instance, the scant consideration given to basic scientific research or to various sectors such as energy and environmental, as well as the geographical differences between north and south research institutes.

In order to increase human resources, financial quotas have been set aside for research programmes in strategic sectors.

This kind of mechanism allows for the natural flow of young people into sectors where development is most predictable. In order to recreate a balance among various types of research, there is, for example the law which institutes the Italian Space Agency.

This has been allotted 15 per cent of the budget intended for fundamental research in the belief that if the state sustains the development of any one research sector it must correspondingly guarantee the quality of such research.

To redress the unequal balance between north and south there are special intervention funds for the south. State research institutes have had their budget quotas for the south increased.

In particular a lire 750 billion programme has been drawn up which will allow the National Research Council, CNR, to increase its present quota of 18 per cent of its investments in the south to 30 per cent. A similar programme is being studied for other research bodies.

The Italians' love of visual pleasure has made the country a leader in fashion, textiles, footwear — and one of the world's biggest dealers in gold jewellery. Despite a slight drop of 8 per cent in gold exports last year, Italy still exported lire 2.6 billion worth, writes Janet Stobart.

"Our markets have changed quite dramatically in the last year," says Donatella Balestra, part-owner and chief designer of Balestra 1882, the world's second largest gold jewellery manufacturer.

The family-run firm of 200 employees on the outskirts of the Veneto town of Bassano del Grappa exports about 70 per cent of its products.

Last year's trends showed a decline in markets such as Panama, the main distributor of jewellery to South America, and several Arab countries such as Lebanon and Kuwait. However, a surge came from Scandinavia and northern European countries.

"It is a more sophisticated market," says Signora Balestra, and one which she and other manufacturers such as the goldsmith giant Uno-Erre in Arezzo are more than ready to satisfy.

It was in 1882 that Luigi Balestra started production of gold chains with a small team of workers using modified sewing machines. Now many of the 260 employees work on research for higher quality and quicker production and welding processes, including laser-beam welding of different metals such as gold and platinum or gold and steel.

While the computer is an

Machines with a golden touch

integral part of transposing any new design to some of the computer-controlled chain weaving machinery, the origin of any design, says Signora Balestra, is still pen and paper.

Technology, however, is of growing importance to the jewellery trade. While many jewellers such as the Florentine houses of Leopoldo Poli and Franco Torini declare their hand-made jewellery more than ever responsive to today's demands of a sophisticated clientele, they too make certain concessions to machinery for producing a series of products.

Gianni Caccioni, head of the Italian Silversmiths' As-

sociation, holds up a fine replica of an 18th-century Venetian coffee pot to show off its hand-chiselled curves, but admits: "If we need to make a series of plates or chalices we will use a pressing machine."

Italy's silver consumption reached 1,000 tons in 1987, and much of it, though worked by hand, was first moulded into shape by machine.

For the last 19 years, MGZ of the Gori and Zucchi group in Arezzo (of which Uno-Erre is another subsidiary), has specialized in making gold-working machinery. Its avant garde programmed



Despite technological advance the creation of the artisan is never forgotten. An artist still works in precious metals to add the finishing touches at the Beretta arms factory

machinery for the automatic production of gold chains has put MGZ among world leaders of such machinery.

Inside the Balestra factory, where some 450 machines produce reams of intricately woven gold chains of all combinations, MGZ machines with their electronic programming produce links next to one of the company's oldest, perhaps more limited but still trustworthy, machines producing classic regularly linked gold chains.

Research for future technology goes on continuously as the company must try to surpass its daily output of 20,000 items.

The future may bring the laser beam as a more efficient soldering device, but for the present, says the chief technician, it is not an economic proposition.

While machinery is an endemic part of Uno-Erre, a large number of its products is still hand-worked jewellery. A new philosophy known to the company as the "just in time" process is under way in Arezzo as the management of the 800 employees are trying to eliminate time wasting delays between the working of jewels and their retail sale.

The new systems will therefore need machinery to help the working of any piece of jewellery, pushing it from one phase to the next with as little delay as possible. Worked on by 20 groups or about 21 per cent of the entire staff of Uno-Erre, this is a sort of Japanese-style time and motion study to speed up the manufacturing and eventual sale of Uno-Erre's jewellery production.

Showing Russians the way

The Italian method for devising and adapting technological innovation is now coming close to design as the country's biggest selling point in international markets writes Peter Nichols.

This is the outstanding element in the new foreign trade policy which is just beginning to take shape.

The principle behind this policy is that products are not all that Italy has to sell. What will emerge as equally important in future bids to expand world markets will be how production is handled, what sort of society advanced technology is emerging from and, of course, how society is influenced in its turn by technological innovation.

The first big step in express-

ing this new policy will be the exhibition opening after Easter in New York which will be the biggest presentation ever of Italian fashion. But the technological imperative will surface far more strongly in a show now being planned for October in Moscow. The intention is to show what Italy has to offer Soviet industry, now in the throes of modernization and renewal.

Hence the Russians will be shown what Italy can provide in the field of technology. But there will also be an account of how scientific research is conducted, the relationship between industry and the quality of life, as well as the way technology has been absorbed and adapted here by medium and small firms so as to protect their limited dimen-

sions — and so greater flexibility — rather than favouring the big companies, or encouraging mergers.

Many of the products shown to the Soviet buyers will have exhibited with them, like a form of pedigree, the original project and the technology used in their manufacture.

Special attention will be paid to scientific and industrial research in fields in which Italy is making notable but as yet unobtrusive progress.

The Moscow exhibition, to be called "Italy 2000", will seek to enlarge the stereotype view of a country which exists only in sectors requiring flair, such as fashion and car design. Much emphasis will be placed on advanced studies in heavy engineering and projects for designing and setting up advanced production plants.

Both the New York and the Moscow functions are part of a newly devised programme called "The Image of Made in Italy" which intends to correct what are felt to be mistaken concepts of modern Italy, and expand the vision of the Italian economy offered to prospective buyers while, at the same time, promoting its products from the drawing-board to the exhibition-rooms.

Science points a finger at the pollution culprits

Ask the Roman policeman in his smog mask, or the inhabitants of Seveso. Or the average man-on-the-beach in Rimini. Pollution has become an urgent issue in Italy: a sense of new prosperity has focussed Italian minds on the quality of life and the environment.

At the same time there is a growing awareness that one of Italy's most important industries, tourism, could be hurt by air, water and land pollution.

This grass root unease has translated into political clout with the election, for the first time, of Greens into the Italian parliament. Backed by information from four pressure groups — Italia Nostra, the World Wildlife Fund, Friends of the Earth and the Lega Ambiente — and with local councillors positioned throughout Italy, they are waging war with industrial polluters.

The main effect of the Greens, and of changing popular attitudes, will be the stricter implementation of anti-pollution laws.

Italy has been moving so quickly that few factories have bothered with elaborate pollution filters or controls. But a number of laws and EEC directives have now been put into place and they add up to a formidable network, sometimes even tougher than the European Community requires. The problem is that they are only partially implemented.

Legislation like the Merli and Galasso laws — and the trend towards enforcement — are regarded as rather bad news by many Italian companies

which are reluctant to finance new safeguards. But for other companies and scientific laboratories in the ecology field, this is a boom time.

An 1985 analysis of over 250 companies in the anti-pollution business show that about 55 per cent saw great opportunities opening up. Water and air purification in the chemical industry is where most interest lies.

The fact that the workers of CISE — the research unit of the Italian National Electrical Company — have to splutter their way to the Milan laboratory through the notorious city

Mobile laboratories are meeting the demand for reliable checks

traffic no doubt hardens their will to succeed. Since 1981 they have been working on LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) — a technique of measuring pollution levels with laser.

The machines are mounted on vans or on aircraft and are used to monitor aerosol and gas concentrations. As Italian industry and cars pour out more than two million tons a year of sulphur oxide, some 800,000 tons of nitrogen oxide and five million tons of carbon oxides — eating into monuments like the Colosseum — the demand for reliable checks is urgent.

A common sight in Rome nowadays is the mobile pollution laboratory, run by the local authorities and resembling the kind of caravan used by film stars on location. But their measure-

ment is mainly chemical and restricted to a narrow area.

LIDAR can make extremely accurate assessments over several kilometres. The instrument is the optical equivalent of radar: it sends off light pulses, picks up the signals that bounce back. Differences in signal reveal the density of pollution.

CISE is one of four Italian laboratories working on the system and Italy is proving to be one of the most innovative centres in adapting the techniques for commercial and scientific use. LIDAR can be applied just about anywhere: close to traffic, over chemical plants, power stations. It can monitor methane escaping from gas ducts and, in the latest development, watch over sea pollution.

The European Community commissioned CISE to design an airborne LIDAR fluorosensor system for sensing pollutants on the sea surface. The first instrument is expected to come into service this year.

It works like this: if there is a serious oil spill, an aeroplane with LIDAR will fly above it at an altitude of a few hundred yards. The laser emitted in the ultraviolet range then sends very short, light pulses to the sea's surface, exciting the oil molecules and other organic compounds. That makes them emit fluorescent light which is collected by a special telescope on the aeroplane.

The advantage of this system is that it can also analyse the rate of time decay, which in turn makes it easier to estimate the types of pollutant and

their amount. Large stretches of water can be analysed in this way.

The prototype of a mobile LIDAR — a car-mounted unit — costs about £200,000 but commercial production would obviously reduce the cost. Whether local authorities or ecology businesses in Italy will be able to afford this kind of technology remains to be seen.

Despite the surge in the Italian economy, companies are profoundly sensitive to the extra costs of pollution control. There is a classic confrontation between growth (or quite simply jobs) and environment.

In the Tuscan seaside town of Massa — to pick out only one of a score of afflicted communities — there is a so far unresolved duel between a large farmopiant pesticide company, owned by Montedison, and the local Greens who, with the help of a local referendum, have mobilized local opinion against the plant.

Such local referenda consultatives do not have the force of law but they influence, for example, the town authorities who must decide whether to renew a licence to produce certain pesticides.

Montedison denies that it is causing any toxic damage and, plainly, jobs will be threatened if the factory has to close down. Both industrialists and Greens thus welcome the new development in pollution technology: accurate monitoring should settle, once and for all, the great arguments as to who or what is despoiling a beautiful country.

Roger Boyes

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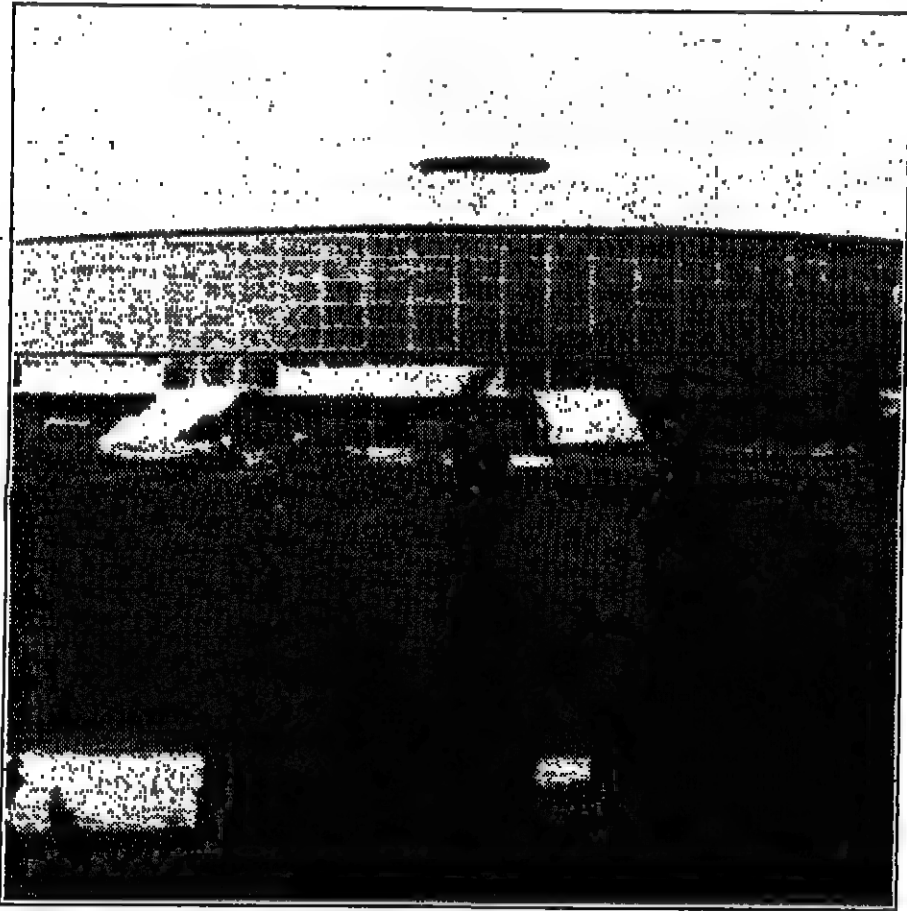
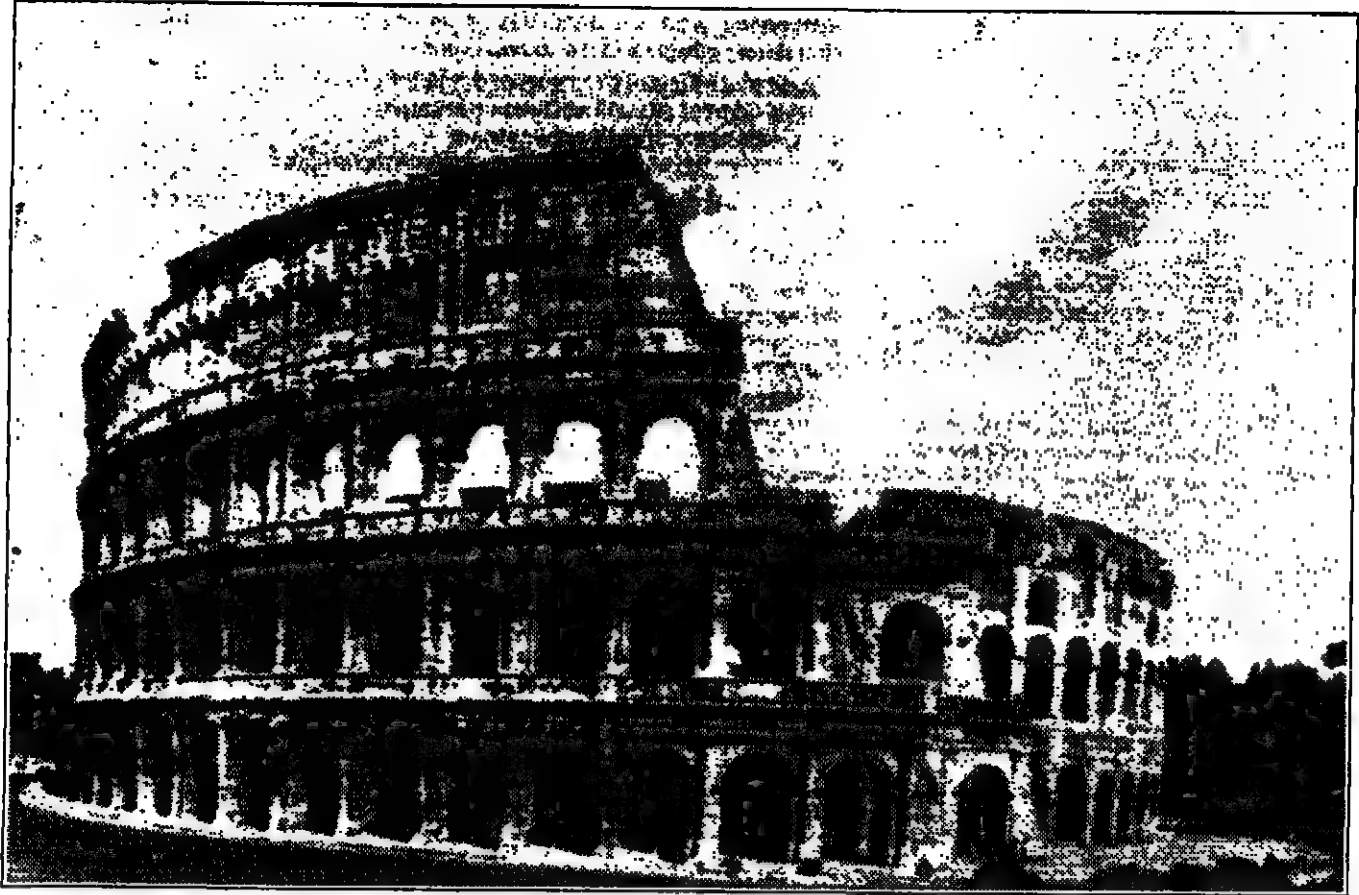
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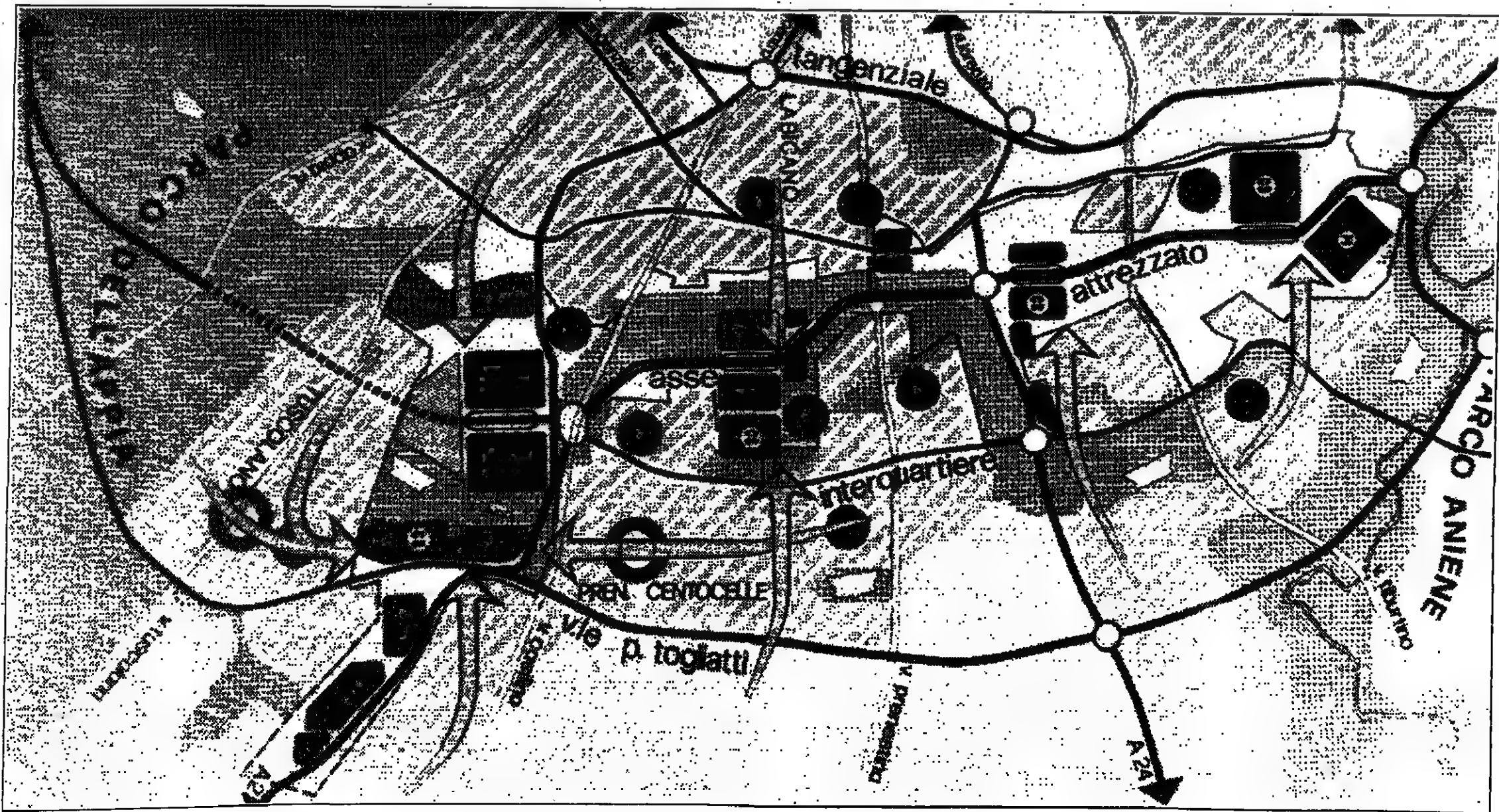


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BANKING & ACCOUNTANCY

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

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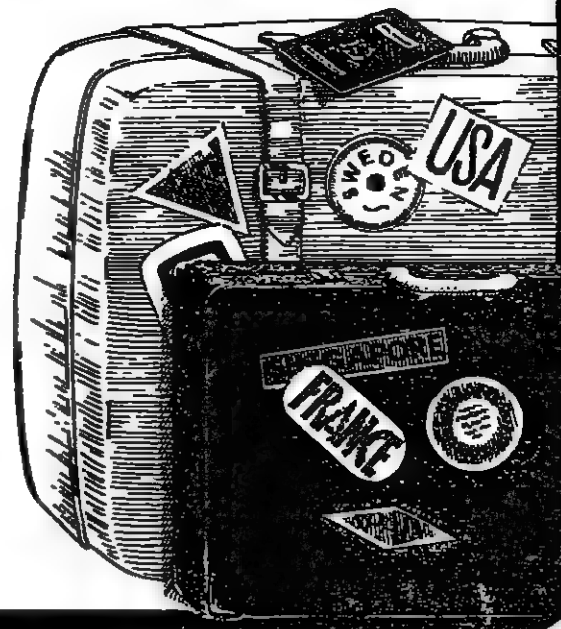
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The benefits package includes concessionary mortgage, BUPA, and generous relocation terms where necessary. Please apply in the form of a C.V. with a covering letter to: MRS G.J. STANLEY, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER - PERSONNEL & TRAINING, TOWN & COUNTRY BUILDING SOCIETY, JACKSON ROAD, CLACTON ON SEA, ESSEX CO15 1JF.

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For further details of these vacancies, contact Chris Sale at Michael Page Partnership, Cygnet House, 45-47 High Street, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8AG or telephone (0372) 375661 (evenings and weekends 01-622 5321).



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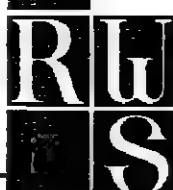
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Mansell back to his best for new season

Simply being there runs into millions

This is also Jonathan Palmer's No. 1 priority, to back up his 1987 success as winner of the Jim Clark Cup, the 3½-mile class of the world championship, with the Tyrrell team. Palmer and his new Tyrrell partner, Julian Bailey, have the new 1000 cc turbocharged wedgehead Ford Cosworth DFZ engine in the back of their new car, the first two of which have been completed just in time to be sent to Brazil. Palmer drove last year with considerable confidence and authority and is now eager for greater success. Bailey, though still a novice, orders and installs his way carefully on circuits, many of which will be new to him.

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compete in grands prix

Simply being there runs into millions

If everything goes according to plan, 26 cars and drivers will assemble on the starting grid for the Brazilian Grand Prix on Sunday afternoon. The cost of putting them there and on the 15

Producing competitive racing cars at this level is a highly specialized activity, of which very few companies have the necessary experience. Also, as in this instance the factory in

There is an understandable reticence among Formula One teams to discuss financial matters, and indeed it is a condition of most sponsorship contracts that under no circumstances will financial details be divulged by

It is no secret, however, that it falls largely on sponsors to pick up the tab for Formula One, even though the majority of those which do so find that their investment in the grand prix scene, with its massive exposure through television and the written media, offers exceptional value for money. It is backed up with appropriate marketing skills. Major sponsors in the past have dropped out of Formula One because of the cost, only to return when they failed to achieve comparable exposure

The driver, too, leans heavily on sponsorship deals for much of his income, and in many cases will have personal arrangements with companies not associated with the team for which he drives (subject to no conflict of interest) as well as being part of the team sponsorship package. Some drivers are paid directly by a team sponsor, others via the team out of the sponsorship fee. Some are allowed spaces on their uniform to sell independently, others do not enjoy this facility.

The drivers most in demand have huge earning potential, perhaps in excess of £3 million, but at the other end of the scale a driver may have to buy his way into an under-financed team by bringing sponsorship money with him. In this instance he may be able to divert only enough to cover his expenses and give himself an executive

**up to break
ury record**
r Bryan

his hill-climbing ability (he was bronze medal winner in last year's national championship), is pleased with his fitness. At the weekend he finished ninth in the pro-am Eastbourne to London road race.

Ken Bird, the Orpington cycle dealer who has built the tandem frame, plans two more attempts on the Mills-Paul record during the year, one in June, again at Herne Hill, which has a macadam surface, and the other during the national championships at the Leicester track, which is wooden, in August.

But Marchant is unlikely to be in action on either occasion;

Paul, is still alive and has wished tomorrow's aspirants every success. "It's about time the record was broken," he said.

Chris

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Christmas Holly ready for repeat

Guineas sponsors extend support for two more years

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

General Accident, Britain's first classic sponsor, yesterday announced that it will be exercising its option to sponsor the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket in 1989 and 1990.

Announcing the news at a lunch in London yesterday, Tom Roberts, General Accident's general manager (UK), said: "We have also taken our further option for 1991 to 1992. "We are delighted to be continuing our association with Newmarket and with racing. We see our continued support for these races as a logical commercial undertaking which enhances the international reputations of both the Guineas and our worldwide interests."

The company will also continue to support the Jockey Club Stakes for a further two years.

Welcoming the news, Sir Thomas Pilkington, the chairman of Newmarket racetrack, said: "Continuity in sponsorship is in the best interests of both the sponsor and the racing industry. We are delighted that General Accident have renewed their option."

"Their increased contribution, plus that of the Horserace Betting Levy Board and the racecourse itself, will enable us to increase the added prize money for the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas to a minimum of £10,000 in 1989, an increase of 37.5 per cent on 1988 levels."

Commenting further, Sir Thomas added: "I must emphasise how important sponsorship continues to be. We don't want this country to become a little England in the scale of international values, which is continuing to rise. These new increases will enable us to keep pace, but only just."

The continuing wet weather and saturated ground is still frustrating trainers with hard news for the Guineas difficult to come by. However, Henry Cecil's team were in action on the grass on the Racecourse Side at Newmarket for the first time this year yesterday morning.

Steve Cauthen rode Sanguino in seven-furlong sprint with Reprimand (William Ryan), and Warren Place's possible candidate for the 1,000 Guineas, the unbeaten Diminution, galloped over the same distance with Lattinasee.

Bluebook did a similar workout with Fairchild, the winner of her only two starts as a two-year-old. Fairchild has been continually catching the eye of watchful trainers in the past fortnight and could be an interesting prospect for the first of the British Classics at her current odds of 33-1.

However, all the principal money in the 2,000 Guineas continues to be for Warrington. Following the news of the favourite's sparkling gallop with Tralos last Sunday, Khalid Abdulla's winner of the 1987 Doochamps Champagne Stakes has attracted continuing heavy support during the past three days and is now top quoted at 9-4 to give the stable its third win in the classic.

The principal news about next week's Grand National comes from the Jockey Club PRO described the visit as having been a great success. Lord Vestey, the senior steward of the disciplinary committee, said: "The visit was a success. The stewards were able to show the jockeys video films of the recent Cheltenham Festival to highlight their concern for racing's public image. "It went very well," Pipe added.

Christmas Holly, from Mary Reveley's steadily expanding Cleveland stable, is napped to win the Auchinraith Apprentice Handicap for the second time at Hamilton today.

Although he missed the whole of last season, his fitness need not be taken on trust because he has been in good form over hurdles of late, winning at Carlisle and Sedgefield. Furthermore he is also a good ride for a relatively inexperienced jockey.

That race at Carlisle was confined to conditional jockeys. Further research shows that when Christmas Holly won the corresponding race two years ago, he had also been hurdling.

Obviously Treaymon, who scored in some style at Ayr on Tuesday, will be hard to beat. However, two factors persuade me that Christmas Holly is the better bet. Firstly, Treaymon must carry a penalty. And secondly, Paul Burke succeeded in giving his opponents the slip at Ayr. This I doubt very much whether he will be given so much rope.

In any event, Treaymon should provide Christmas Holly with a perfect lead into the final furlong as my nap habitually runs his best when he can be held up for a late run.

Otherwise it could pay to follow Kim Tinkler riding Design Wise (2.45) and Gold Sceptre (3.15) for her husband Nigel and the Full Circle Thoroughbred Company.

Gold Sceptre, who was bought out of Paul Cole's stable for 7,000 guineas in the autumn, should only have to run as well as he did last year when he was beaten two lengths by Rag Girl at Leicester to lose his maiden tag in the Holytown Claiming Stakes.

Acquainted, who finished first in a nursery at Catterick last season but lost the race in the stewards' room afterwards, can also break his duck in the Dechmont Maiden Stakes.

Jondebe Boy, my selection for the Middleward Handicap, had Prospect Place four places behind at Doncaster last Friday when he finished third to No Beating Haris. To me, that looks better form than Taranga's third to Runaway at Ayr on Monday.

On the jumping front at Southwell, I give Red Craig Royal a good chance of winning the Jack Daniels Novices' Chase, and thus remaining unbeaten, even though course and distance winner Boardmans Crown is among his opposition.

At Market Rasen three



Regal Castle, who finished a disappointing tenth when a heavily-backed joint-favourite for the County Hurdle at Cheltenham, faces less testing opposition at Southwell today (4.30)

weeks ago, Red Craig Royal made a spectacular debut, giving a sparkling display of jumping and winning virtually unchallenged by 20 lengths. Border Tinker, who started favourite, appeared held when he fell.

The sharp nature of the Nottinghamshire track will suit this front-runner and should also help Dowjak as he attempts to win the Seagram Maiden Chase.

A free-running sort who gets two miles but not much further, Dowjak would only have to run as well as he did at Haydock, where he was beaten half a length by High Debate, to land this prize.

Regal Castle, an expensive

failure in the County Hurdle at Cheltenham, attempts to retrieve those losses in the Red Stripe Handicap Hurdle for which he has top weight.

In this instance, though, I doubt his ability to give almost a stone to Deadly Going, who has been knocking on the door of success recently.

Regal Castle, an expensive

General Accident, Britain's first classic sponsor, yesterday announced that it will be exercising its option to sponsor the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket in 1989 and 1990.

Announcing the news at a lunch in London yesterday, Tom Roberts, General Accident's general manager (UK), said: "We have also taken our further option for 1991 to 1992. "We are delighted to be continuing our association with Newmarket and with racing. We see our continued support for these races as a logical commercial undertaking which enhances the international reputations of both the Guineas and our worldwide interests."

The company will also continue to support the Jockey Club Stakes for a further two years.

Welcoming the news, Sir Thomas Pilkington, the chairman of Newmarket racetrack, said: "Continuity in sponsorship is in the best interests of both the sponsor and the racing industry. We are delighted that General Accident have renewed their option."

"Their increased contribution, plus that of the Horserace Betting Levy Board and the racecourse itself, will enable us to increase the added prize money for the 1,000 and 2,000 Guineas to a minimum of £10,000 in 1989, an increase of 37.5 per cent on 1988 levels."

Commenting further, Sir Thomas added: "I must emphasise how important sponsorship continues to be. We don't want this country to become a little England in the scale of international values, which is continuing to rise. These new increases will enable us to keep pace, but only just."

The continuing wet weather and saturated ground is still frustrating trainers with hard news for the Guineas difficult to come by. However, Henry Cecil's team were in action on the grass on the Racecourse Side at Newmarket for the first time this year yesterday morning.

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HAMILTON PARK

By Mandarin

2.15 CHRISTMAS HOLLY (nap). 2.45 Design Wise. 3.15 Gold Sceptre. 3.45 Bluebell Music. 4.15 Acquainted. 4.45 Jondebe Boy.

2.15 AUCHINRAITH APPRENTICE HANDICAP (1.25.15; 1m 30) (11 runners)

1 (5) 002344- FOURTH TUDOR 10.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. Wandy Burton (5) 95
2 (2) 000120- LUCYAN GOLD 25.5 (B. F. G.) (Newmarket Thoroughbred) P. Hamilton 4-9-8. A. Bacon 95
3 (3) 000000- CASUAL PASS 22.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
4 (4) 000000- TREAYMON 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
5 (7) 0040-30 M. A. SPIN 2 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
6 (4) 000000- MIGHTY SUPREMACY 2 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
7 (10) 000000- TUDOR GATE 18.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
8 (5) 000000- OUR HERO 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
9 (1) 000000- CHRISTMAS HOLLY 27.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
10 (1) 000000- JELLY JILL 18.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
11 (5) 000000- PRETTY FLY 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
Long handicap. J. G. F. G. 14.5. T. Sprake 14.5.
BETTING: 5-2 Treaymon, 7-2 Lucy Gold, 5-1 in Ayr, 5-1 Fourth Tudor, 10-1 Jelly Jill, Tudor Gate, 12-1 Pretty Fly, 14-1 others.

1987: COMMON FARM 4-9-8. A. Bacon (5-1) M. Britain 11 m.
Path's Sister (5-2) at Thirk (2m, 11.12.82, good, July 31, 9 m).
OUR HERO (5-2) on seasonal debut last year beat Master Vase (5-2) at Thirk (2m, 11.12.82, good, July 31, 9 m).
JELLY JILL (7-13) 9-11 to Apple Wine (5-10) at Edinburgh (1m 30, 20.6.82, good to firm, July 31, 9 m).
Selection: OUR HERO

2.45 QUARRY SELLING HANDICAP (E29.2; 1m 40yd) (5 runners)

1 (3) 000000- FOX PATH 34.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
2 (4) 000000- DESIGN WISE 30.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
3 (5) 000000- U-B-COP 3 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
4 (1) 000000- BARGAINETTE 22.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
5 (1) 000000- SPECIAL RESERVE 17.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
BETTING: 2-1 Design Wise, 5-4 Fox Path, 11-4 U-B-Cop, 6-1 Bargainette, 12-1 Bargainette.
1987: SATELITE BLAZER 3-9-4. B. G. A. (5-2) Miss M. Bell 11 m.
OUR HERO (5-2) never dangerous 8th of 9 to Golden Beau (5-2) at Portlough (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Aug. 10).
SPECIAL RESERVE (5-2) 4th to M. M. M. (5-2) at Warrington (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Oct. 13, 15 m).
Selection: FOX PATH

3.15 HOLYTOWN MAIDEN CLAIMING STAKES (1.02.0; 1m 10) (8 runners)

1 (1) 220000- REPEATED 18.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
2 (2) 000000- SPERANCA 22.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
3 (3) 000000- RONCOCO 18.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
4 (2) 240000- DAURICUM 18.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
5 (2) 000000- AFFAIRE DE COEUR 26.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
6 (3) 000000- HURSTON STAR 12.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
7 (2) 000000- STANTON QUEEN 18.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
8 (5) 000000- EPINETTE 18.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
BETTING: 5-2 Design Wise, 5-4 Fox Path, 11-4 U-B-Cop, 6-1 Bargainette, 12-1 Bargainette.
1987: HOPPING AROUND 3-5-1. B. G. A. (5-2) M. Bell 11 m.
OUR HERO (5-2) never dangerous 8th of 9 to Golden Beau (5-2) at Portlough (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Aug. 10).
SPECIAL RESERVE (5-2) 4th to M. M. M. (5-2) at Warrington (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Oct. 13, 15 m).
Selection: DAURICUM

3.30 RUN ON THE BANK (nap). 4.00 Dowjak. 4.30 Regal Castle.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 DOWJAK.

4.0 SEAGRAM MAIDEN CHASE (E1.20; 2m 74yd) (16 runners)

1 (1) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
2 (2) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
3 (3) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
4 (4) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
5 (5) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
6 (6) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
7 (7) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
8 (8) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
9 (9) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
10 (10) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
11 (11) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
12 (12) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
13 (13) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
14 (14) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
15 (15) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
16 (16) 000000- CHELSEA ROYAL 20.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
BETTING: 5-2 Design Wise, 5-4 Fox Path, 11-4 U-B-Cop, 6-1 Bargainette, 12-1 Bargainette.
1987: SHEPHERD'S HYMN 5-12-3. L. W. (12-1) B. G. A. 11 m.
OUR HERO (5-2) never dangerous 8th of 9 to Golden Beau (5-2) at Portlough (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Aug. 10).
SPECIAL RESERVE (5-2) 4th to M. M. M. (5-2) at Warrington (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Oct. 13, 15 m).
Selection: DAURICUM

4.30 RED STRIP MAIDEN CHASE (E1.83; 2m) (13 runners)

1 (1) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
2 (2) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
3 (3) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
4 (4) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
5 (5) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
6 (6) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
7 (7) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
8 (8) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
9 (9) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
10 (10) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
11 (11) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
12 (12) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
13 (13) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
BETTING: 5-2 Design Wise, 5-4 Fox Path, 11-4 U-B-Cop, 6-1 Bargainette, 12-1 Bargainette.
1987: ASSEYBRAWLEY 8-11-7. R. M. A. B. (7-4) J. G. F. G. 11 m.
OUR HERO (5-2) never dangerous 8th of 9 to Golden Beau (5-2) at Portlough (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Aug. 10).
SPECIAL RESERVE (5-2) 4th to M. M. M. (5-2) at Warrington (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Oct. 13, 15 m).
Selection: DAURICUM

4.30 RED STRIP MAIDEN CHASE (E1.83; 2m) (13 runners)

1 (1) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
2 (2) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
3 (3) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
4 (4) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
5 (5) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
6 (6) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
7 (7) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
8 (8) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
9 (9) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
10 (10) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
11 (11) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
12 (12) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
13 (13) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
BETTING: 5-2 Design Wise, 5-4 Fox Path, 11-4 U-B-Cop, 6-1 Bargainette, 12-1 Bargainette.
1987: ASSEYBRAWLEY 8-11-7. R. M. A. B. (7-4) J. G. F. G. 11 m.
OUR HERO (5-2) never dangerous 8th of 9 to Golden Beau (5-2) at Portlough (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Aug. 10).
SPECIAL RESERVE (5-2) 4th to M. M. M. (5-2) at Warrington (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Oct. 13, 15 m).
Selection: DAURICUM

4.30 RED STRIP MAIDEN CHASE (E1.83; 2m) (13 runners)

1 (1) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
2 (2) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
3 (3) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
4 (4) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
5 (5) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
6 (6) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
7 (7) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
8 (8) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
9 (9) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
10 (10) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
11 (11) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
12 (12) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
13 (13) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
BETTING: 5-2 Design Wise, 5-4 Fox Path, 11-4 U-B-Cop, 6-1 Bargainette, 12-1 Bargainette.
1987: ASSEYBRAWLEY 8-11-7. R. M. A. B. (7-4) J. G. F. G. 11 m.
OUR HERO (5-2) never dangerous 8th of 9 to Golden Beau (5-2) at Portlough (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Aug. 10).
SPECIAL RESERVE (5-2) 4th to M. M. M. (5-2) at Warrington (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Oct. 13, 15 m).
Selection: DAURICUM

4.30 RED STRIP MAIDEN CHASE (E1.83; 2m) (13 runners)

1 (1) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
2 (2) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
3 (3) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
4 (4) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
5 (5) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
6 (6) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
7 (7) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
8 (8) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
9 (9) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
10 (10) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
11 (11) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
12 (12) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
13 (13) 000000- REGAL CASTLE 14.5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
BETTING: 5-2 Design Wise, 5-4 Fox Path, 11-4 U-B-Cop, 6-1 Bargainette, 12-1 Bargainette.
1987: ASSEYBRAWLEY 8-11-7. R. M. A. B. (7-4) J. G. F. G. 11 m.
OUR HERO (5-2) never dangerous 8th of 9 to Golden Beau (5-2) at Portlough (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Aug. 10).
SPECIAL RESERVE (5-2) 4th to M. M. M. (5-2) at Warrington (1m 40yd, 11.12.82, good, Oct. 13, 15 m).
Selection: DAURICUM

Guide to our in-line racecard

100 (12) 0-4-52 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD, BF, F, G, S) (Mrs D. Robinson) 8-11-10-0. S. West (4) 95

Racing news. Day in brackets. Se-figure in form (F - fall, P - pulled up, U - unseated rider, D - disqualified). Horses name, Day since last race, Jockey, Weight, Age, Sex, Colour, Sire, Dam, Trainer, Owner, and other relevant information.

3.45 EBF CAMPSIE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; E1,277; 5) (6 runners)

1 (5) BLUE BELT MUSIC (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
2 (2) EBOR NOVA 5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
3 (4) GOLDEN GRADUATE (T. Wong) M. Britain 9-10. T. Sprake 95
4 (1) M. EASY (J. Brown) J. Barry 9-10. T. Sprake 95
5 (2) JUST ODDS 5 (J. G. F. G.) (R. M. A. B.) 6-9-10. T. Sprake 95
6 (6) ORCHARD'S PET (P. Sprague) M. J. Turner 9-10. T. Sprake 95
BETTING: 7-4 Just Odds, 3-1 Blue Belt Music, 5-2 Ebora Nova, 5-1 Golden Graduate, 5-1 M

Millionaire Maradona makes most of his name

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, West Berlin

Diego Maradona is selling his talents around the globe and, as a moonlighter, he does not come cheap. As well as being rewarded lavishly by his employers at Naples, the little Argentine is about to raise his secondary income since December 1 to over \$1-million (about £540,000).

For agreeing to take part in the West Berlin tournament, featuring Argentina, the Soviet Union, Sweden and the hosts, Maradona will collect \$350,000. If he leads his nation in their scheduled games today and on Saturday, he will have earned about £1,000-a-minute.

Such an appearance fee may seem excessive, even for a player considered to be the best in the world, but his rate is usually higher. For representing Al-Ahly for 45 minutes in Egypt, he was paid \$250,000. Even that was comparatively hard work.

A Sheikh in the United Arab Emirates gave him \$200,000 to stage a private exhibition. Maradona was handed \$350,000 to demonstrate his skills alongside the Sheikh's brothers in Marbella. Princes sums they may be but they are little more than loose change to Maradona.

Consider a sample of the extraordinary incentives offered to him by his Italian

club, who recently almost doubled his annual salary to \$1.5 million. Each of his goals is worth £10,000, if he scores more than 20 in a season, and everytime he plays in any Cup tie, he receives an extra bonus of £100,000.

Maradona is provided with a dozen free first class flights for two people to Buenos Aires every year, and also with the proceeds of a quarter of the club's souvenir sales. With such clauses in his contract, no wonder he consented to stay for another five years.

Nor is that the end of the financial gains for the man who led his country to the World Cup in 1986 and his club to the Italian title last season. Maradona is expected shortly to sign another contract valued at £1 million for promoting the boots of Hi-Tec, a company based in Southampton.

Some may claim that Maradona is entitled to substantial riches but in asking for, and being granted, huge amounts from the organisers of tournaments, he is setting a disturbing trend. There is an increasingly heavy price to be paid for his presence in friendly fixtures. The Football League parted with £100,000 to be assured that he would lead the Rest of the World at Wembley in

August. His absence can lead to cancellation.

Hamburg, who were also preparing to celebrate their centenary more recently, told Argentina that their collective appearance money would be conditional on Maradona performing for them. The deal collapsed. A month later he did play for Naples against Hamburg. His fee? \$100,000 as well as other "private arrangements".

The phrase is believed to have included, among other benefits, the use of a private jet, apparently his customary form of travel. He breezed in and out of England six months ago and is making a similar flying visit here to lift the stature of the competition.

Bobby Robson, one of several national managers on a spying mission, will watch Maradona and his colleagues take on the Soviet Union this afternoon. "We can put Argentina aside for a couple of years," he says, "but they will be a stern test. Anyone who does well against them must be strong."

The opening game has given him a welcome opportunity to refresh his appraisal of the Soviets, a side he has not seen for two years. They are England's closing opponents in the first round of the Euro-

pean championship finals. "After our experience against the Dutch, that match could be crucial."

Robson's eyes will be as closely trained on this evening's activities in the Olympic Stadium when Sweden, the first team on England's World Cup qualifying schedule, are to meet the hosts. "West Germany will want to do well in this class of company," he added, "but can they hide things and still win?"

"It is like us and the Dutch last week. Inevitably, you expose yourself, so this is a good chance to see Franz Beckenbauer's squad, who must be considered favourites for the European title. I want to thank them for laying on this tournament."

Maradona will doubtless scarcely regret it either.

A helping hand

Sponsorship of Football League tournaments and clubs is now worth over £17 million a year—£14.4 million in individual club sponsorship and £2.8 million from central sponsorships such as Barclays and Littlewoods. Research by the League's commercial and marketing department shows that first division clubs are this year attracting £10.7 million in sponsorship.

Ardiles is out for Blackburn

The former Argentinean international midfielder player, Osvaldo Ardiles, has been ruled out of the Blackburn Rovers team for the away game with Oldham Athletic tomorrow.

But Ardiles, who has been having treatment at White Hart Lane for the ankle injury he sustained in his first match for Blackburn last Saturday, is making good progress. The Blackburn manager, Don Mackay, said: "The news from Tottenham is most encouraging."

But the Scottish international defender, Ally Dawson, who has missed three games for Blackburn because of a hamstring injury, is still not fit.

Coventry City will carry out major repair work on their pitch immediately the season ends. The pitch has been described as the worst in the first division after 120 tons of sand had to be laid to help drainage in the autumn and winter. Under-soil heating and drainage pipes were installed last summer without success. The Coventry board will now examine reports on the state of the pitch, but it is expected to be dug up for the second time in 12 months.

Billy Hails, the Chelsea reserve team coach, is returning to Watford and his former position of physiotherapist. Hails, who left Watford when Dave Bassett took over as manager earlier this season, was at Vicarage Road for eight years.

The Newcastle United goalkeeper, Martin Thomas, who has been out of action since October with a dislocated shoulder, has signed a one-year contract with the club.

The Portsmouth defender, Kevin Ball, has been banned for one match after reaching 21 disciplinary points. The Sheffield Wednesday defender, Steve McCall is side-lined after suffering a recurrence of a knee injury playing for the reserve team.



Family frolic: Maradona and daughter, Dalma Nerea, before the West Berlin tournament

Botham's advisers left to pick up the pieces

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

Ian Botham's harassed advisers were yesterday counting the cost of his banishment from Australian domestic cricket and considering his future options, both in and out of the game.

While Botham was concentrating on elephant problems in southern France, his manager, Tom Byron, and solicitor, Alan Herd, were picking up the pieces of an Australian adventure which went badly wrong.

Among the background to emerge from Botham's dismissal by Queensland is that he was already weighing up the possibility of not returning to Australia next winter. His first season in Brisbane apparently failed to produce the commercial riches he had been led to expect, and, I understand, Botham's wife, Kathy, was urging him to withdraw from his commitments and spend a winter in England.

Botham received no more than the statutory match fees of about £100 per game from the Queensland club; his money was made from a £35,000 deal with the Carphone Group — which it had decided to terminate even before Queensland dismissed him — and from a variety of commercial contracts believed to have earned him another £35,000. This figure disappointed Botham and his management team, who had been anticipating a greater response from potential sponsors.

Much of his income came from speaking engagements, although, ironically, there was

also a deal with the Australian internal airline, Ansett. It was on one of its flights that the incident occurred which resulted in Botham appearing in court on an assault charge, and Queensland losing faith in him.

Reaction in Australia to Botham's dismissal has been mixed. Greg Chappell, the former Australian captain, played an influential role in the decision to dismiss him, and apparently considered him a bad influence. In contrast, another Test player, Geoff Dymock, who acted as Queensland's manager for

Hawke speaks

Brisbane (AP) — Ian Botham came under fire from Australian Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, yesterday. Mr Hawke said Botham had a lot to offer Australian cricket and that Queensland had been right to recruit him. However, he deserved to be sacked. "He let cricket down, he let Australia down," he said.

much of the past season, has been quoted blaming senior players other than Botham for the problems of the club.

It emerged, meanwhile, that the Carphone Group, through its chairman, Graham Thomas, gave Botham a character reference in court last week, confirming that he had fulfilled all his commitments under their Australian agreement. This seems to contradict yesterday's strong criticism of Botham by another of the group's executives, Ted Markwick.

Lillee finally set to make his bow

By Andrew Longmore

At the age of 38, Dennis Lillee will play his first season of county cricket for Northamptonshire this summer. The deal, which is thought to be worth about £30,000, half being sponsored by a local company, Gestetner, represents a remarkable coup by Northamptonshire, who are not usually regarded as one of cricket's big spenders.

Lillee last played first-class cricket in England seven years ago when he took 11 for 159 in the final Test at the Oval in 1981, and retired from the game at the end of the 1983-84 season with a then world record 355 Test wickets.

However, earlier this season he was persuaded to play in a few games for his club Scarborough, in Western Australia. He took 15 wickets in his first three games, rediscovered his appetite and made a comeback in the Sheffield Shield for Tasmania, taking 16 wickets in six matches.

Northamptonshire first approached Lillee last November, their secretary, Steve Coverdale, said yesterday. "Dennis warmed to the idea of playing county cricket because he has never done so, but I think he wanted to satisfy himself that he was up to it."

There will be those in the game who will ask how Northamptonshire manage to keep four overseas players "in the locker" and a TCCB working party is currently looking into the registration laws, but that should not detract from the prospect of seeing the finest fast bowler of his generation finally making his bow in county cricket, albeit a few years past his prime.

Carphone does not sponsor Botham individually in England; its annual agreement is to pay £15,000 to the Worcestershire club, basically to subsidize the salary outlay on Botham and Graham Dillie. The company apparently has no intention of discontinuing this arrangement, so Botham's financial bread-and-butter in county cricket seems safe for the time being.

Botham is easily the biggest earner in world cricket, though his income is negligible when compared with the leading players of tennis and golf. His four main commercial sources are *The Sun* newspaper, Duncan Fearnley cricket equipment, Nike boots, and the publishing group, Collin. His agreements with these four companies net him upwards of £150,000 each year and none is apparently threatened.

His solicitor said yesterday: "I am obviously concerned that this story has been blown out of proportion in some quarters, and that people are being given the impression that Ian is a bad risk because he causes havoc wherever he goes. I am not excusing what he has done, simply trying to put it in perspective."

One option that Botham may consider, now that his next two winters are free, is to make himself available once more for England tours. Even if he swallows pride sufficiently to take this course, however, he still has to persuade the Test selectors that he will not let them down, in conduct as well as cricket.

Miandad defies W Indies

Georgetown, Guyana — Javed Miandad became the first Pakistani to score a one-day century against West Indies when they made 221 for seven in the fifth limited-overs international here yesterday (Richard Smeaton writes).

Miandad had one slice of luck when he was 13. He turned Benjamin towards square-leg and Dujon, standing well back, alerted the umpire that the balls were on the ground. The umpire, Clyde Duncan, after a long pause ruled not out. Either he did not see what had happened or felt the balls had been blown off.

PAKISTAN
Ramez Raja b Gray 67
Shoaib Mohammad c Dujon b Marshall 67
Yasir Malik run out 6
Javed Miandad not out 100
Salam Malik c Benjamin b Gray 17
Imran Khan run out 17
Ijaz Ahmed b Walsh 10
Wasim Akram c Hayden b Gray 8
Ijaz Faqir not out 15
Extras (b 3, lb 6, nb 6) 15
Total (7 overs, 43 overs) 221
About Ockler and Smeaton, latter did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-41, 3-94, 4-94, 5-160, 6-183, 7-164.
SCORING: Marshall 102-42-1; Walsh 10-2-50-1; Gray 11-3-4-3; Benjamin 7-0-31-0; Miandad 6-0-45-0.
WEST INDIES: C G Greenidge, D L Haynes, F V Sefton, R B Richardson, A L Love, C L Hooper, JP J L Dujon, M D Marshall, W K M Benjamin, A H Gray, C A Walsh.
Umpires: D M Archer and C Duncan.

Seaman is likely to miss out on place in championship

David Seaman's place in the England squad for the European championship finals has been jeopardized by a decision taken yesterday by UEFA's executive committee. Each of the eight competing nations is to be allowed to keep a third goalkeeper in reserve at home who can be summoned should the need arise.

Bobby Robson had planned to include Seaman in his party of 20 at the end of May in case either Shilton or Woods was injured during the tournament. "Some people call the third goalkeeper a tourist," he said. "He might be a luxury but the risk of not taking him is too great."

Twice in the last six years, England's goalkeeper cover has been dangerously threadbare. During the World Cup in 1982 Corrigan was advised to return from Spain for a cartilage operation and last Octo-

ber in Yugoslavia Seaman himself damaged a finger during a training session before the 4-1 victory.

Although Robson would not confirm that the Queens Park Rangers' representative will be omitted, he admitted that UEFA's decision "makes things easier". Seaman has not yet gained a full cap and there is only one remaining fixture, in Hungary at the end of next month, which is free for further experimentation.

Pallister, Middlesbrough's promising young central defender who was considered for the visit to Israel and then chosen in the squad against the Netherlands, is the newcomer most likely to be given experience. Robson fears that he may be without both Butcher and Watson, two of his regular choices, in Budapest.

"We knew that Watson had

hurt his shoulder at Wembley last week." England's manager said, "but we didn't think it was that bad. If he's out for three weeks, that will make it tight for Hungary but I'm not alarmed."

Butcher will not be pushed into completing his recovery from a broken leg. "I don't want to bring him back too early and take the chance of wrecking his confidence," Robson added. "After his latest treatment at the rehabilitation centre at Lillieshall, though, the general signs are optimistic."

Yet Butcher, if he hopes to take part in the finals, must be available for the traditional annual fixture against Scotland at Wembley on May 21. Robson intends to pick his strongest line-up then, against Columbia three days later, and in Switzerland the following Saturday "to see how it runs".

FIFA sends group to United States

Washington (Reuters) — FIFA, football's international governing body, will send a five-member commission to the United States next month to view prospective facilities for the 1994 World Cup, which the Americans are hoping to host.

Paul Stuber, the director of World Cup USA 1994, said the group was scheduled to arrive in Washington for its week-long inspection tour on April 10.

The group, headed by the West German, Horst Schmidt, will visit 16 stadiums in 13 cities that the United States's football federation has proposed as sites for the 1994 championships.

The FIFA commission has already inspected stadiums in Brazil and Morocco, the two other countries in contention.

FIFA's 21-member executive committee will announce its decision in Zurich on July 4. But the fact that July 4 is American Independence Day has fuelled speculation that FIFA is leaning towards the United States as its choice of host. The last World Cup, won by Argentina, was held in Mexico, while Italy is scheduled to host the competition in 1990.

● **MADRID:** José María Maguregui has resigned as manager of the Spanish club, Celta, it was announced on Tuesday night. He is to join Atletico Madrid next season. Maguregui took over at Celta last summer after the dismissal of the English manager, Colin Addison, who had just led them into the first division. Maguregui is reported to have resigned after differences with the management over the running of the club. Celta are at present seventh in the Spanish League.

Swiss want English clubs back

Geneva (Reuters) — The re-admission of English teams to the three European club competitions was supported by Edgar Oberbauer, the general secretary of the Swiss Football Association (SFV), yesterday.

Oberbauer said: "We are 100 per cent for the return of English clubs. We have missed them badly during the past three seasons. We have always had good relations with the English authorities."

He added that the European Football Union (UEFA), which will decide whether to allow English clubs back into the "Champions", Cup-winners' and UEFA Cup competitions at an executive committee meeting in St Andrews, Scotland, on May 3, was aware of the SFV standpoint.

Member countries have been asked by UEFA for their views.

Board seeking clarification in Budd affair

By Steve Acteson

The British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) has written to the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) asking that justice should be seen to be done in the affair of Zola Budd.

The 23-man council of the IAAF meets in London on April 16 and 17 to consider, among other things, whether it should ban Budd, who is already suspended. Even if, as now seems likely, the IAAF accepts that she did not compete in South Africa last year, her presence at the meetings could still be enough to precipitate action against her.

Tony Ward, a spokesman for the Board, said yesterday: "We have written to the IAAF asking for clarification on three points. One: Will Zola Budd be asked to attend the meeting? Two: If she is, will she be able to be legally represented? Three: Will the BAAB be able to attend the hearing?"

Ward said these questions were not being raised because it was felt that Budd needed protection from the IAAF.

Jockeys in whip bans

Tyrone Williams and Jimmy Quinn became the first Flat jockeys to be punished under the Jockey Club's new whip rules at Hamilton yesterday. Both were suspended for using their whips with "unreasonable frequency".

Williams, who won the race on Final Sound by a neck from Quinn's mount, Lady Lustre, was banned for two days (April 8 and 9), while Quinn, an apprentice, misses just one day (April 9). Williams, who refused to comment afterwards, used his whip 17 times in the last two furlongs.

Racing, page 45

Seoul doubts

Steve Jones, the former marathon world record holder, faces a desperate fitness battle if he is to make the Seoul Olympics in September. Jones was forced to drop out of a leading group towards the end of the Fleet half-marathon at the weekend and the suspected viral complaint which caused that also threatens to jettison his hopes of competing in the Boston Marathon, on April 18.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Jones: may miss Boston



Jones: may miss Boston

Record entry

The United States plans to send more than 800 athletes and officials to the Seoul Olympics. The preliminary entry includes 639 athletes and 169 officials, and breaks the previous record of 779 which they set in Los Angeles in 1984.

No charge

David Bishop, the Pontypool rugby player who spent several hours at police headquarters in Cardiff on Tuesday regarding a ticket fraud, made an official statement through his solicitor yesterday, saying that he left the police station without being charged.

Boxing date

The first promotion of the new Mickey Duff-Terry Lawless partnership will be at York Hall on April 13, featuring Michael Watson, a middleweight, and Gary Mason, the heavyweight, against Americans.

Sevens go on

The London floodlit sevens tournament has been thrown a lifeline by Wimpey Home, who have provided a £30,000 backing for the competition which will be staged at Rosslyn Park on April 20.

Renewed deal

Grass-roots athletics in Britain will benefit by more than £100,000 from renewed sponsorship by McVitie's. There will be 10 development days for youngsters and clubs between May and October, and the company will also continue its backing of a jumpsquad.

Coming back

Daimler Benz is serious considering re-entering its Mercedes cars in Formula One racing after a break of more than 30 years. Grand prix season preview, page 44

END COLUMN

A single control urged in research

By John Goodbody

When Ron Pickering delivers a clarion call on British sport, many people stand to attention. They are often right to do so. This week the BBC television commentator was proclaiming the need for better co-ordination in sports medicine and for greater dissemination of information.

The theme of his opening address to the Sports Medicine and Sports Fitness exhibition in Kensington was that, although there is plenty of excellent work being done in clinics, universities and specialist centres, there must be a better umbrella organization to link them together and to feed the information back to the coaches and competitors.

Pickering told *The Times*: "At the moment there may be 50 places in Britain where there are, say, treadmill tests being carried out to assess physical properties. But there may be doing 50 different tests. We do need some controlled methods."

Sport, he said, has been generous as givers in supplying individuals. "But medicine has to play its part in supplying the information from the tests — and this has not always been happening."

There exists two distinguished bodies: the British Association of Sport and Medicine and the British Association of Sports Science. But these organizations are not truly all-embracing and have a limited role in the provision of facilities and examination of competitors.

Pickering, who has so often proved both an ambassador and a conscience of British sport, yesterday received support from Dr Ken Kingsbury, a medical adviser to the Sports Council, whose contribution in this field has been largely unrecognized.

Dr Kingsbury agreed that there is often no systematic approach. He says there has



Pickering: call for unity

often been a lack of dialogue between medical experts and the coaches of many governing bodies over physical assessment testing, correct diet, the use of osteopaths and psychologists and the prevention of injury.

One of the reasons that judo has been the most successful British sport, pro rata for the number of competitors, over the last four Olympic Games has been Dr Kingsbury's ability to provide the fighters with the necessary medical back-up anywhere in the country.

In many other sports it has been different. Dr Kingsbury says: "There has not been enough dialogue. Unlike tactical medicine there are too many whizz-kids, who are afraid of sharing their prowess and knowledge."

Dr Kingsbury believes there is "an enormous amount of good work" being carried out in research, analysis and treatment. However, there is often a lack of systematic support on a regular basis and a lack of integration in many governing bodies. Dr Kingsbury has written a review on the situation for the Sports Council and Sebastian Coe, its vice-chairman, is considering the implications.

Another body which is particularly concerned about the provision of scientific knowledge is the British Coaching Foundation. Tony Byrne, its technical officer who works closely with the British Association of Sports Science, says that it is now planned that there will be the accreditation of centres and a protocol of standardized practice at Loughborough University, the British Olympic Association Centre in Northwick Park and the Football Association Rehabilitation Centre in Lillieshall. This will allow the same tests on individuals to be done in different parts of the country under identical conditions.

Next week, Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, accompanied by Coe, will be going to East Germany to examine its facilities and organizations. They may well be sufficiently inspired to ensure that Britain can also acquire some of the same cohesion and uniformity of purpose in sports medicine that has been a major reason for East German supremacy.

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سورة الاحقاف